



Letter to all Community Pharmacies in Surrey

29 June 2020

2 pages

Dear Community Pharmacy Contractors in Surrey,

Locally Commissioned Services in Surrey for Quarter -2 of 2020-21 (July to September)

We write to update you about arrangements for community pharmacy locally commissioned public health services in Surrey during the response to Covid-19. These have been agreed between Surrey County Council and Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex (CPSS), on behalf of Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC).

Payment: As anticipated in our previous letter at the end of March 2020, PHA activity has significantly decreased in response to COVID-19. From March to June 2020, Surrey County Council agreed to pay your pharmacy an average of the payment received April 19 – January 2020 to mitigate the financial loss that you would have experienced as a result of this. **We can confirm that the same approach to payments will be taken for July to September, however there is a mandatory requirement to ensure you record all activity undertaken on Pharmoutcomes during this time.** This will be used for information only to understand the level of activity being delivered across the different services and inform the most appropriate action to take from October 2020.

As indicated in our previous letter, where some level of provision is continuing, the decision on this needs to be locally driven, and on what is possible, viable and safe to provide in your pharmacy. We will continue to work with key partners and CPSS as public health services are stepped up where possible over this period to ensure learning and any appropriate guidance can be shared with regards to how this is happening.

Alongside taking this action I would like to highlight that the overall Public Health agreement budgeted amounts remains the same for 2020/21 meaning we are holding some financial risk in continuing with this approach. This is because it is not financially feasible to pay an average of previous activity whilst there was reduced or no activity in recent months, and then to pay for significantly increased activity (above the average) later in the same financial year, as this would exceed the allocated budget. Discussion with LPC suggests that a large increase in activity of this sort (compared to previous years) during 2020/2021 is unlikely meaning we currently assess this risk to be low. This is mainly due ongoing operational demands of COVID-19 leading to reduced capacity in the provision of PHA services. There is also likely to be reduced demand on some services, for example the number of people with multiple/new sexual partners has reduced dramatically due to social distancing rules. We would however like to hear from your pharmacy if you think a significant increase in PHA activity later in the year may be likely so that we are aware and so it can inform our continued discussion with partners. This will ensure the most equitable support for all providers continues to be provided.

This decision again follows discussion with the local CCGs and the LPC. It is intended to reduce the negative financial impact on pharmacies from the delivery of public health services during the coming period. We recognise that there will be continued concerns around arrangements beyond this and so we will continue to review this with our colleagues in the LPC. As previously, if you have any concerns or queries with continuing with this approach please contact publichealthclaims@surreycc.gov.uk

Sexual Health

For sexual health services, Surrey was the only local authority in the South East with a specialist provider offering an online (postal) service for both contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment pre-COVID. As expected, Central & Northwest London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) have seen a huge rise in the use of online services and have been offering telephone appointments with face to face appointments where necessary and are increasing the number of face to face appointments. Service information can be accessed here: www.sexualhealth.cnwl.nhs.uk/surrey-services/ .

Stop Smoking Service

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that One You Surrey, the stop smoking service is still providing support via telephone and online. Where possible, please refer smokers to the service during this important time to quit. Referral details: <https://oneyousurrey.org.uk/health-care-professionals>

Once again, I would like to thank all pharmacies for their support and effort throughout this difficult time and hope that the arrangements detailed above are of some assistance.

Best Wishes,



Ruth Hutchinson
Interim Director of Public Health
Surrey County Council



James Wood
Chief Executive
Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex