

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex

On behalf of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey LPCs



November 2020

Barry Poland
West Sussex County Council Operations Manager
Adults In House Social Care Services

Re: Feedback about West Sussex County Council Medication Policy Revisions

West Sussex Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) welcomes the opportunity to feed-in views to the next revision of West Sussex County Council Medication Policy in December 2020. The policy supports medicines administration by employed carers in the domiciliary setting.

West Sussex LPC have asked for feedback from community pharmacies on the operation of the current policy, both general feedback and any good/bad practice. We have also reviewed the update version and discussed it at West Sussex Local Pharmaceutical Committee.

As a matter of principle, West Sussex Local Pharmaceutical Committee is particularly keen to make sure the policy is aligned with the services commissioned through community pharmacy contractual framework (CPCF) or are supported by locally commissioned services (LCS).

Here are some specific comments:

6.9 Consider adding, or downloaded/viewed at <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc#gref> where up to date, approved and regulated prescribing and patient information for licensed medicines is available. This will reduce requests to pharmacies, were users or their carers are digitally enabled.

10.2,10.3 We suggest this needs a reference subject to 10.6

12.3 – we would suggest changing the end of this section, as is currently written is not supported by an NHS service: *'Supplying a medicine in an emergency on the NHS may be possible in some pharmacies if you regularly take the medicine on an NHS prescription. To find out if the service is available in your area visit NHS 111 [online](#), or telephone NHS111. If it not possible to get a prescription of emergency medicine on the NHS in your area, it will be a private service, meaning that the pharmacist can charge for it. The charge will vary, depending on the medicine and the pharmacist's policy'*

14.6 We suggest adding *'There is no funding from the NHS for community pharmacies to support the general use of medicines compartment aids (MCA). Consequently community pharmacies cannot be compelled to provide medicines in this way'* you may want to reference our guidance, joint with the LMC <https://communitypharmacyss.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/127/2020/05/Briefing-note-MDS-LPCs-and-LMC-Mar-2020-Final.pdf> (note -- we would be happy to discuss local solutions that could be facilitated by commissioning)

15.8, 20.2, 20.5 – there is no local or national contractual requirements for pharmacies to supply a receipt in these situations. We would like this to be removed or facilitated by a locally commissioned service. The requirements of the national essential service for the disposal of unwanted medicines are here <https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Service-Spec-ES3-Waste-Disposal.pdf>

21.1 MURs are going to be fully decommissioned from March 2021, so suggest removing reference to this. Suggest that you may want to reference other support services e.g

'If a person is prescribed a medicine to treat a long-term condition for the first time, they may be able to get extra help and advice about their medicines from their regular local pharmacist through an NHS funded scheme called the New Medicine Service (NMS). The service is only available to people using certain medicines.'

Other than these specifics, we are broadly supportive of the rest of the policy. We are separately working with West Sussex CCG to re-launch the local MAR service, that supports this policy – and welcome this work.

For further information please contact:

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