

To:

Greater Manchester Community Pharmacies

CC:

Greater Manchester LPC
Bolton LPC
Community Pharmacy Provider Board
Primary Care Provider Board

Dear Colleagues,

FOR ACTION: Risk Assessment of Staff in Primary Care

As we continue to adapt to new ways of working as a result of COVID-19, this letter has been produced to share current information regarding risk assessments in primary care.

The recently published Public Health England report confirms that people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Therefore, community pharmacy teams should continue to risk assess all staff, particularly those who may be at increased risk. This includes BAME staff, older colleagues, pregnant women, and those with underlying health conditions, in both patient facing and non-patient facing settings.

We know that significant work is already underway to risk assess community pharmacy teams. The attached guide is intended to further support primary care to risk assess staff and put appropriate measures in place to protect staff from harm. It considers the known risks of COVID-19 including ethnicity, sex, age, underlying health conditions (including obesity) and pregnancy.

The document has received significant input from a range of Clinicians from across Greater Manchester including the Greater Manchester and Bolton LPCs and the GM Community Pharmacy Provider Board. There are links to national evidence and guidance as well as best practice examples. The document also includes an example risk assessment tool.

Following the national letter issued on 24 June, NHS England and Improvement is in the process of seeking assurance that risk assessments have been undertaken by providers and that the appropriate mitigations are in place. The information collected by the BSA will provide an understanding of where assistance is needed locally and help develop a wider support offer nationally. The next window for data collection will be 24-31 July.

We appreciate that this guide may raise queries as managers continue to risk assess staff. Please send any queries to england.primarycarecomms@nhs.net where they can be logged and responded to centrally.

Kind regards



Laura Browse
Director of Primary Care (Interim)
Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership