

**Public Health**

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Date: 14 April 2021

Dear Pharmacy Contractor,

I am contacting you in relation to your current contract for the provision of emergency hormonal contraception and supply of chlamydia screening and treatment.

In March 2020, I wrote to you regarding the suspension of the RU Clear Service that provided chlamydia screening kits and, at that time, the specification and PharmOutcomes modules were updated to reflect new signposting arrangements for chlamydia screening and testing with the provision of chlamydia treatment still available through commissioned community pharmacies. It has subsequently been agreed to suspend the chlamydia treatment element of the community pharmacy offer pending a review of the chlamydia screening and treatment pathways in place locally and with the view to more robust pathways being established.

Please note, pharmacists can still signpost people presenting at the pharmacy for STI screening to the testing provision available via the locally commissioned sexual health services and digital provision.

The specification has been updated to reflect these changes (updated copy of the specification attached for reference). PharmOutcomes modules relating to chlamydia treatment have been decommissioned with immediate effect.

The changes that are being made in relation to the provision of the chlamydia elements of the service do not affect the current Patient Group Directions (PGD) that are in place for Emergency Hormonal Contraception - copies of which are attached for reference and are also available via PharmOutcomes.

As stated in the letters sent to Pharmacy Contractors previously, individual copy of these PGDs should be provided to those pharmacists that meet the competence requirements. It is the responsibility of the Pharmacy Contractor to ensure that pharmacists are competent to deliver this service and should retain a copy of their PGD authorisation sheet and their declaration of

competence using the 'Declaration of Competence for pharmacy services' produced by CPPE and NHS Health Education England. This is available at <http://www.cppe.ac.uk>.

During Post payment Verification checks Pharmacy Contractors may be asked to provide evidence that only appropriate pharmacists were engaged to deliver this service. Pharmacy contractors are responsible for ensuring that pharmacists that they engage are working to the most recently issued PGD.

Pharmacists carry responsibility for ensuring that they are competent to practice under this PGD and should ensure that they maintain their competence as governed by General Pharmaceutical Council standards and codes. It is important that all pharmacists read through the reviewed PGD and ensure they understand any changes incorporated within it and where necessary ensure they meet the service specification in line with the PGD before signing.

It is the responsibility of the pharmacist to make sure that they are working to a valid PGD and they should make a note of any expiry date and ensure that they obtain a newer version when necessary.

The PGD should be used as a working document supported by any consultation documentation that is used.

If you have queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Entwistle

Public Health Business & Strategy Manager