

Derbyshire Medicines Management
Clinical Effectiveness bulletin

Bulletin 2
9th April 2020

Information relevant for Primary care

Recognising the impact COVID-19 on all aspect of our work life, the Derbyshire CPD team have put a bulletin together of relevant COVID-19 information, for the Derbyshire wide primary care Health Community.

As an interim measure this bulletin will supersede the monthly JAPC bulletin

See [http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/home/COVID for all COVID-19](http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/home/COVID%20for%20all%20COVID-19) related information

The Clinical Policy and Decisions team has created a COVID-19 webpage which hosts all Coronavirus related information (local and national) relevant for primary care on the [Derbyshire Medicines management website](#).

Local advice for COVID-19

Alternative inhalers during stock shortage– Local guidance for prescribing alternative inhalers during stock shortages related to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Information on switching to alternative steroid containing inhalers if necessary. *Please limit quantities on prescription to one inhaler to protect supply.*

Vulnerable rheumatology patients - To determine the level of risk to rheumatology patients of COVID-19 and advice on what precautions to take, [risk stratification guide](#) and [scoring grid](#) for rheumatology have been developed by BSR which will help identify which precautions patients should take; shield, self-isolate or social distance at patients discretion or maintain social distance due to their level of risk.

National advice

GP Services: Necessary changes to GP contract regulations now mean Friday 10 April (Good Friday) and Monday 13 April (Easter Monday) are defined as core hours, meaning they are normal working days for general practice. GP practices (or hubs) in Derbyshire are open till 4pm on each day, after which calls will go through to DHU.

Easter Opening Hours for Pharmacies - NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has announced that it will require all community pharmacies in England to open from 2pm to 5pm on 10 April 2020 (Good Friday) and 13 April 2020 (Easter Monday). Further details click [here](#).

EPS pharmacy nominations via NHS App - The NHS App now has a new feature that allows patients to view and change their EPS pharmacy nomination. Being able to update nominations in the NHS App means patients can more easily choose the pharmacy that is right for them during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The NHS App team at NHS Digital have been working on this development for some time, but its release has been prioritised to help patients and primary care team's better cope with ordering and obtaining prescriptions during the pandemic. Having a pharmacy nomination in EPS removes the need for patients to collect FP10s from GP practices and drop them off at a pharmacy, supporting the public to observe social distancing. It is also intended to help reduce the nomination-setting burden on pharmacy teams and GP practices during this busy time. Further details click [here](#).

Options for obtaining outpatient medication during COVID-19 pandemic – DERBY hospital sites. Ensuring patients can access essential medicines in a safe & timely way is a key aim for pharmacy and prescribers during the COVID-19 pandemic. To allow Pride Pharmacy and the Trust pharmacy department to focus on providing more complex medicines (e.g. hospital only & chemotherapy medicines), clinics prescribing 'non-complex' medicines (routinely used in primary care) will be making use of FP10HP prescriptions that patients can get dispensed in the community. This plan has been agreed with community pharmacy colleagues and will avoid unnecessary trips to hospital for patients to collect medicines. For discharge information issues or requests to prescribe RED drugs please continue to report through usual inappropriate request route [link](#).

Vulnerability flag added to Summary Care Record (SCR) for community pharmacies- NHS Digital have added a 'Vulnerability flag' to the NHS SCR of patients who are on the shielded patient list. This enables community pharmacy teams using NHS Digital's SCRa portal to see an alert when viewing the SCR of such a patient. Shielded patients are generally those who are immunosuppressed and at greatest risk from infection from COVID-19; they have been asked by HM Government and the NHS to stay at home for a period of 12 weeks. The Vulnerability flag will support pharmacy teams' decision making about how to best support those people in the shielded group. [Further details](#).

Personal protective equipment: Work continues to increase distribution of PPE equipment, with a further nationally coordinated push of supplies this week for GPs, pharmacy and urgent dental services.

Recognising coronavirus symptoms

With hayfever season upon us, the [Royal Pharmaceutical Society](#) has produced table below to aid clinicians in the recognition of symptoms for coronavirus, cold, flu and hayfever.

SYMPTOMS	Coronavirus (from mild to severe)	Cold	Flu	Hayfever
Fever (greater than 37.8 degree C)	Common	Rare	Common	No
Cough	Common (usually dry and continuous)	Mild	Common (usually dry)	Sometimes (usually dry)
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No	No
Headache	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Itchy throat
Runny/stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes (for children)	No

Further resources for primary care

[Oxford CEBM: COVID-19 evidence service](#)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19): a guide for UK GPs BMJ 2020;368:m800. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m800>
(Published 06 March 2020)

CAS alert

Class 2 Medicines Recall: Emerade 300mcg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe, PL 33616/0014 (EL(20)A/20). Recall for Emerade 300 microgram pens only. Results from manufacturer testing of Emerade auto-injectors recalled from patients in Europe indicate that approximately 13% of pens need higher than normal force to activate, implying a higher risk of activation failure than was previously understood. Healthcare professionals (GP Practices, Pharmacies) should, contact patients and carers with Emerade 300mcg pens, to inform them of the recall information contained within this alert. Additional advice has also been provided for patients with Emerade 500mcg pens, which are not currently subject to a recall due to insufficient supplies of alternative brands of pens. Specific letters for patients can be found [here](#). No further supplies of Emerade will be available on the UK market until the issue has been resolved, therefore patients and carers should be appropriately trained to use other brands.

NICE guidance - March 2020

[NICE NG163 - Managing symptoms \(including at the end of life\) in the community](#)

[NICE NG165 - Managing suspected or confirmed pneumonia in adults in the community](#)

[NICE NG166 - Severe asthma](#)

[NICE NG167 - Rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders](#)