

To:
All Community Pharmacies

Directorate of Integrated Care
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4th September 2020

Dear Colleague

ADHERENCE SUPPORT: COMMUNITY PHARMACY REVIEW OF PATIENTS RECEIVING MONITORED DOSAGE SYSTEMS (MDS)

I wrote to you on 3rd July detailing the commissioning and funding arrangements for community pharmacy services for 20/21.

The current non-commissioned provision of compliance aids / MDS has evolved over many years in response to patient and practitioner demand. There has been limited structured assessment of need, and yet a big proportion of additional service capacity is devoted to this activity.

Given the challenges faced within the wider system, there is a need to urgently address the current and ongoing need for pharmacy adherence support particularly in order to plan for a potential second surge of Covid-19. I am therefore, writing to advise you of the process for community pharmacy-led review and the associated remuneration which has been agreed with CPNI.

Current position

The report included in Appendix 1 provides an overview of the current provision of MDS within community pharmacy and how this has changed over recent months in response to changing patient needs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Review

The purpose of the community pharmacy-led review is to identify patients for whom MDS must continue as it is deemed vital in order for them to manage their medicines safely. The review tool (Appendix 2) has been developed in collaboration with CPNI and should be used to facilitate the review. It is based on guidance from Specialist Pharmacy Services,¹ which is also a useful reference document. This review process should help to identify patients where use of MDS may not be necessary or where other options may be safely considered.

¹ <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/summary-of-guidance-and-evidence-for-use-of-multi-compartment-compliance-aids-mccas/>

The review of all eligible patients should be completed by **Friday 16th October 2020**.

The review is not intended to include patients receiving MDS who are in receipt of a Domiciliary Care Package which includes medicines administration. Trust and Domiciliary Care Agencies will be responsible for undertaking a review of these patients.

Outcome of the review

Where the review for an individual patient has identified issues requiring following up by the GP practice this should be communicated to the practice using the agreed referral form (Appendix 3). This should be sent securely to the GP practice for the attention of the General Practice Pharmacist.

Record keeping

The review template should be completed for each eligible patient and a copy retained in the pharmacy.

A summary template and claim form (Appendix 4) should be completed and returned to your local HSCB office by **Friday 16th October**.

Payment

A payment of £1,894 is available to each pharmacy on return of the summary template and claim form (Appendix 4).

If you have any queries in relation to this correspondence please contact your Pharmacy Adviser in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

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