



Dear Colleague

COVID 19: ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTRACTORS

Purpose

1. This circular sets out the agreed initial additional financial support measures for the community pharmacy network in responding to the COVID19 pandemic.

Background

2. The Scottish Government have agreed a set of additional financial support measures with Community Pharmacy Scotland to address an increase in dispensing activity, extended Minor Ailment Service consultations and treatments and the provision of pharmaceutical care services provided on Good Friday and Easter Monday to support the wider NHS activity.
3. This Circular also outlines the agreed arrangements for fee's payable for community pharmacy contractors providing pharmaceutical care services on the May Bank Holidays i.e. either 4 or 8 May and 25 May. Should a Health Board's second public holiday run into the first week of June, this funding is intended to allow this to be claimed up to a maximum of two days per pharmacy over the May to June period.

Detail

Cashflow

4. Agreement has been reached with CPS that **payments for February prescriptions, paid at the end of April 2020 is set at a figure three times that of the Net Amount Due** to contractors i.e. the figure before any regional payment adjustments are made for December 2019 and was paid to the bank accounts at February 2020.

24 April 2020

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Director of Practitioner
Services, NHS NSS

For information

Directors of Finance, NHS
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General Enquiries to:

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5. Timeline for Reconciliation of February 2020 Advances paid April 2020 is intended to begin in **May 2020** (with payments to bank July 2020) provided that Practitioner Services Division is up to date with pricing. The **recovery period lasts** until the **end of March 2021** (payments to bank May 2021) with the total amount to be recovered through equal monthly instalments to aid cash flow concerns and still recover all monies due by the end of that financial year. Should a contractor wish to repay sooner, arrangements can be put in place with Practitioner Services.

Workload and appropriate adjustments

6. An initial payment of new funding totalling **£5.58 million** has been agreed and will be made to pharmacy contractors for the increased dispensing activity, additional worked hours, a contribution for reasonable adjustments made to premises for the purposes of social distancing and the purchase of personal protective equipment in advance of the current arrangements being put in place. A breakdown of how this will be paid is set out below.
- Allocation and Payment of the **£5.58m** money released as an initial payment to recognise the immediate impact on workload during March 2020.
 - **£700** paid March 2020 (to bank May 20) to each pharmacy for reasonable adjustments.
 - **£1,000** paid March 2020 (to bank May 20) to each pharmacy for recognition of staff costs.
 - Balance of **£3.442m** paid as each individual pharmacy's proportion of the overall prescription item volume increase in March 2020 vs March 2019. CPS accepts that this can only be paid when the data becomes fully available and the working assumption is May or June 2020 for data availability with payment to bank July 2020.
7. In addition, new funding has been secured for the provision of pharmaceutical care services provided on Good Friday and Easter Monday opening. Fees have been agreed and will be payable at the following rates; **£1,200 for a full day** (at least six hours opening to patients); **£700 for a half day** (at least three hours opening to patients).

May Bank Holiday Provision

8. Community pharmacy contractors have been requested, where possible and safe to do so, to open and provide a full range of pharmaceutical care service on either both or one of the scheduled May public holidays; or if this holiday falls in early June, taking account of regional variation. Fees payable will be set at the same level as that provided for opening on Good Friday and Easter Monday: that is, **£1,200 for a full day opening; £700 for a half day opening.**
9. Health Boards should work with local contractors to co-ordinate pharmaceutical care coverage and ensure maximum provision over the bank holidays.

Action

10. NHS Boards are asked to:
- note the contents of this circular;
 - copy this circular to all community pharmacy contractors on their pharmaceutical lists, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Area Pharmaceutical Board.

Yours sincerely,



Rose Marie Parr

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer/

Deputy Director Pharmacy & Medicines Division