

## Community Pharmacy Status Update for Stakeholders – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Please note this is only to be shared within your organisations and not made public

### Fourth Update:

#### Supply Chain

Still lots of shortages, mostly intermittent some listed below. Pharmacists have been asked to suggest alternatives when contacting prescribers about shortages.

- Inhalers in general under pressure due to demand and may show intermittent shortages
- Ranitidine all strengths & liquid – major issue – virtually no stock and may be none before July
- Paracetamol tablets and liquid (POM and OTC) – some stock but still struggling with demand
- Sertraline all strengths -limited or no stock
- HRT in general limited or no stock
- Emerade Inj both strengths – long term limited / no stock
- Haloperidol inj and capsules – intermittent issues reported
- Levomepromazine inj - intermittent issues reported
- Midazolam inj - intermittent issues reported
- Diamorphine Inj – intermittent issues reported

#### Resilience in pharmacies

Generally, community pharmacies are in a better place workload wise than they were, although still busy and increasing demand for home deliveries. The NHS funded Pandemic Delivery Service is only for **shielded** patients as flagged on SCR via pharmacies and dispensing practices. Note deliveries may not always be available at weekends/bank holidays.

**Opening hours during Covid19 up to 1<sup>st</sup> July** – there is the flexibility for pharmacies, where necessary, to apply to change hours with 24 hours - notice. This must be approved by NHSEi and a valid reason is required. This is over and above the 2.5 hours 'behind closed door' working which is allowed without seeking permission. The DoS and NHS website must be updated to reflect this.

**Bank Holidays – May 8<sup>th</sup>** – NHSEi are currently confirming GP and other NHS expected activity for forthcoming bank holiday to assess requirements for pharmacy coverage. Generally, most expected to be open 2-5pm, some will be opening longer. However, some pharmacies may apply to close or open alternative times. NHSEi are expecting to be able to supply a final list of those open and their opening hours by Wednesday next week. Once this is available, we will transpose onto our full list of pharmacies to show closures as well, should this not be clear from the NHSEi list.

**EPS and e-RD** – there is a national and local push to accelerate uptake of e-RD and EPS in all surgeries. The AHSN Lead Sandeep Pahal is also supporting the CSUs / CCGs in this work. This initiative is particularly useful in current pandemic reducing paper scripts and workload. It does however need to follow recommended processes as part of the implementation and have clear messages for patients and involvement of the local pharmacies.

**Palliative Care** – all areas have or are in the process of arranging for around 20 pharmacies spread across each STP footprints to hold agreed range of EOL stocks. The lists of pharmacies will be shared next week when finalised and in the meantime is available from the CCGs.

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