

## COVID-19

### Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (18-5-2020)

I hope you had a restful weekend. I wish to thank you all for your continued support and commitment over the last week. As I have said we are now concentrating our efforts on looking at our recovery plans and new ways of working.

A couple of other highlights for today:

- Scottish Government has today issued a letter to inform you of a change to Clinical Case Definition for Covid 19. The new definition is now “New continuous cough or fever or loss of/change in sense of smell or taste”. We have amended the GDS Triage Form (attached) to reflect this change and would ask that you use this amended form from tomorrow.
- We have been made aware that a number of dentists and community pharmacists have been using social media platforms for forwarding prescriptions. This is not an acceptable means of forwarding patient information. In order to maintain appropriate governance, I would ask that this practice stops.

I thought it may be helpful to provide a reminder on how to prescribe urgent drugs to patients.

The GDS Team have provided a list and contact details for community pharmacies in GG&C.

If you need to issue an urgent prescription, liaise with the patient to determine the most convenient community pharmacist. The following link provides the location of community pharmacies to identify the most convenient one for the patient, the contact details can then be found via the Board supplied list <https://www.nhsinform.scot/scotlands-service-directory/pharmacies>

Write your prescription and explain to the patient you will be forwarding the prescription to the agreed pharmacist for collection. Advise the patient to wait at least 4 hours before attending the pharmacy in question. Upon arrival, the patient should inform pharmacist that their dentist has emailed a prescription.

You must use your own prescription stamp, even if you are working in or supporting the PDS urgent care sites.

Using a secure NHS.net (or NHS GG&C) email account send a scanned copy, or a photo attached to the email, of the prescription to the agreed community pharmacy NHS.net email account and ensure you explain the urgent need for the prescription.

- Ensure the email subject header includes the following:

\*FAO PHARMACIST: URGENT PRESCRIPTION REQUIRED FOR DENTAL PATIENT\*

- Ensure the patient’s name and DOB (and ideally CHI number) is included in the email

Telephone the pharmacy to explain you have forwarded a scanned copy of an urgent prescription to their NHS.net account for their attention. Please be aware telephone lines to pharmacies are currently very busy and there may be some delay in answering your call. Ensure you send the hard copy of the prescription to the dispensing pharmacy, preferably within 72 hours.

**Stay Safe and Look After One Another**

- GDPs have expressed difficulties in arranging prescriptions for Duraphat for high caries risk patients. We have worked with Pharmacy to explore a solution to the problem. Unfortunately, Duraphat (by definition) does not constitute an urgent or essential medication and cannot be submitted to a pharmacy for dispensing as such. We would ask GDPs (and patients) not to approach GMPs to prescribe Duraphat. We recommend the following to arrange prescribing of Duraphat to high risk patients:

The prescription of Duraphat requires the dentist to risk assess the patient and would preferably be carried out in conjunction with a clinical examination. Under the current circumstances this is not feasible. Therefore, it will be acceptable to undertake this risk assessment remotely (by telephone or video call). For those patients deemed to be at high risk, a prescription for Duraphat can be issued. We ask for this prescription to be posted to the pharmacy. Under the current circumstances there are likely to be delays in the postal service, so please inform patients of the likely delay in dispensing.

Many of the patients are likely to be shielded or in supported accommodation, such as care homes. In these cases, there may already be pre-existing arrangements with the pharmacy to arrange delivery to the patient.

This represents the simplest means of addressing the issue of providing Duraphat to high risk patients and ensuring we maintain appropriate levels of governance and stewardship. We will seek to monitor and evaluate this process and in the event of untoward difficulties will work with Pharmacy and GDPs to address any further issues.

- If you feel you need to escalate a paediatric patient who is currently on the waiting list for paediatric assessment or extraction under GA due to a change in their clinical condition, please make contact with Tara Dunseith, Assistant Clinical Director, email - [taradunseith@nhs.net](mailto:taradunseith@nhs.net) or mobile – 07966232085.
- Just a reminder that we have received confirmation from NHS24 that they will not be triaging patients on Monday 25 May 2020. So we will follow the same process as for the last public holidays.
- If you are contacted by a patient seeking advice/treatment who is not yet registered with your practice, you are still able to triage and refer via the PDS Special Care Hub, marking the form as unregistered patient. Alternatively the patient can be advised to contact GGCEDS on 0141 232 6323.

***Stay Safe***  
***Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry***