

To:
GPs
OOHs & COVID centres
Community pharmacies
Head of pharmacy Federations (*for
cascade to GP pharmacists*)
Trust Medical Directors (*for cascade to
Palliative Care clinicians*)
Trust Directors of Nursing (*for cascade to
relevant nursing teams including
community*)
Trust Heads of Pharmacy

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16th April 2020

Dear Colleague

FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR URGENT PANDEMIC PACK (NURSING HOMES WITH ≥59 BEDS)

HSCB issued communication to all GPs and Community Pharmacies (13/4/20) concerning the above packs

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Letter%20to%20GPs%20CPs%20RE%20Nursing%20Home%20Packs.pdf>

The purpose of this letter is to provide further information on the above packs that are now in place in larger nursing homes to allow timely access to medicines.

SIGNED ORDER

In order to expedite delivery of packs prior to Easter Bank holiday, delivery was facilitated on behalf of Victoria pharmaceuticals by Movianto. Their distribution process requires each Nursing Home to return a Signed Order signed by the Home Manager and Medical Officer for the home to allow the delivery to proceed. Under the circumstances, this is being done retrospectively, to expedite supply.

HSCB acknowledge this was not referenced in the cover letter and that therefore GP colleagues have understandably been reticent to add their signature when contacted by homes.

To resolve this, Dr M O'Brien has today provided this one-off signature to cover supply to all Nursing Homes who have been issued with packs.

This now fulfils wholesaler requirements.

Nursing Homes will be advised today that there is no need to contact GPs for this signature.

REPLENISHMENT OF PACKS

Once medicines are used from the pack, top up will be managed locally via a request to a Community Pharmacy which will NOT require GP signature.

A guidance document which clarifies this and provides further information to support the use of the Urgent Pandemic Pack has been issued to each nursing home prior to delivery and is available via the following link:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3137.htm>

The process for medicines management issues to support other homes is being considered and in addition a policy supporting assessment of patients own drugs for potential re-use will be issued shortly.

The process of prescribing, supply and administration will be highlighted to the Northern Ireland HSC Silver Command and has been deemed acceptable during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you require any further information contact Pharmacy Adviser colleagues in your local HSCB office.

Thank you for your continued support during these extremely challenging times.

Yours sincerely



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Head of Pharmacy and Medicines
Management



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Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of General Medical Services

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