

Dear Colleague

Public Health Commissioned Pharmacy Services during the Coronavirus Outbreak

This briefing provides guidance and key information about changes to Public Health Commissioned Pharmacy services during the Coronavirus outbreak. These changes have been made in consultation with Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire and will be reviewed and amended as required to adhere to new guidance and the evolving situation.

North Yorkshire Public Health team recognise the immense pressure that local pharmacies are facing and aim to reduce the workload as far as possible in relation to any Public Health commissioned services. At the same time, it is recognised that for some services patients are either part way through or will require a clinical pathway for example the provision of pharmacotherapy or the provision of emergency hormonal contraception which can only be accessed through pharmacy, primary care or specialist services.

Key Contacts

Emma Davis, Health Improvement Manager, Sexual Health Services Lead

Emma.Davis@northyorks.gov.uk, 01609 797154

Phillippa Sellstrom, Health Improvement Manager, Stop Smoking Services Lead

Phillippa.sellstrom@northyorks.gov.uk, 01609 536836

Sexual Health Services

[The Faculty of Reproductive and Sexual Health](#) (FRSH) and [British Association for Sexual Health and HIV](#) (BASHH) have issued draft guidance on the provision of sexual health services to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance has been informed through joint working with national reproductive health and HIV partner organisations.

The guidance reflects the unparalleled circumstances we are entering into and offers additional and extended options and strategies to services in their unstinting efforts to maintain access to the highest quality sexual and reproductive health and HIV care.

YorSexualHealth (YSH) current position

In response to the pandemic the integrated sexual health service provider (YSH) have ceased to operate a walk in model and have instead moved to one of booked appointments, intended to ensure timely care and treatment to those at most risk and in pain, to maintain safe staffing levels whilst reducing the virus spread by preventing COVID-19 positive individuals from attending services without appropriate precautions.

YSH have moved to telephone triage and consultations with online provision for high risk individuals.

All non-urgent LARC provision has ceased, POP will be the first line offer and can be issued to almost all service users who accept this as a temporary method plus advocating condom use in addition to use of POP. Exceptions to this are those in moderate or severe pain and emergency IUD.

All patients are asked to contact the central booking telephone line 01904 721111 to arrange a discussion.

Emergency Contraception (EC) in community pharmacy (13-24 years)

The FSRH Clinical Effectiveness Unit recommends that remote assessment of requirement for EC is prioritised so that it can be made as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse. Insertion of a Cu-IUD for EC should continue to be offered first line, where this is possible, to qualifying individuals; if there is a delay prior to Cu-IUD insertion, immediate oral EC should be offered in addition.

To access insertion of an emergency Cu-IUD contact YorSexualHealth on 01904 721111.

Individuals who do not meet the criteria for emergency IUD insertion, or who decline an emergency IUD should be assessed remotely as to the most appropriate oral emergency contraception and receive oral EC and condoms and be given clear written/digital advice about additional contraception and follow up pregnancy testing. Where possible delay associated with postal delivery of oral EC should be avoided by facilitating collection by the individual.

Stop Smoking Services

Supporting smokers to quit has been identified by the Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England as invaluable in the national response to coronavirus. Smokers are at increased risk of respiratory viral infection as smoking both increases someone's vulnerability to infection and reduces their ability to fight against it.

The latest Government guidance (see link below) provided by the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) to protect smokers from coronavirus is as follows:

https://www.ncsct.co.uk/publication_COVID-19_18.03.20.php

- Support for smokers should continue.
- Face-to-face stop smoking consultations should cease immediately but behavioural support should continue to be provided via telephone as per the standard treatment programme.
https://www.ncsct.co.uk/publication_ncsct-standard-treatment-programme.php
Proactive telephone support is still an effective, evidence-based intervention when delivered in line with the NCSCT standard treatment programme.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) monitoring should be paused, smoking status can be 'self-reported' and not 'CO-verified'.
- Appropriate and locally agreed adaptations of medication pathways should be utilised to ensure that clients continue to receive stop smoking medications.

Pharmacy In-House Stop Smoking Service Weekly Support

Due the current demands on local pharmacies it has been recognised that it unlikely that they will be able to continue to provide in-house behavioural support even as a telephone offer for patients or take on new patients. If your pharmacy is unable to provide telephone support to patients currently registered for stop smoking support, please contact the Living Well Smokefree team on 01609 797272 to provide details of the patients. **Please ensure that you have spoken with each patient to agree for their information to be passed over to the Living Well Smokefree service.**

Please can you also ensure to provide the Living Well Smokefree service contact details to any new patients requesting support for smoking cessation.

Stop Smoking Services Pharmacotherapy

It is important to ensure that all patients can continue to access their pharmacotherapy as it is key in supporting and achieving a quit. To minimise the need for face to face contact and to enable staff distancing where possible the following changes have been agreed.

NRT Voucher Scheme

An electronic version of the NRT voucher will be provided by the Living Well Smokefree service via secure email to the pharmacy.

- It is not necessary for the client to sign the NRT voucher.
- Length of NRT supply can be extended e.g. several weeks of NRT may be supplied as opposed to 1 week, however appropriateness of this must be assessed for each individual client.
- Collection of NRT should be as per the arrangements in place at each individual pharmacy

The NRT voucher details should still be entered onto the PharmOutcomes template in the usual way.

NRT Supply for In-House Service (for individuals still receiving telephone support from pharmacy)

- Length of NRT supply can be extended e.g. 4 weeks of NRT may be supplied as opposed to 1 week, however appropriateness of this must be assessed for each individual client.
- Collection of NRT should be as per the arrangements in place at each individual pharmacy

Champix Supply

Champix supply can be accessed through two routes; a letter of recommendation to a patients GP or via a pharmacy signed up to the NYCC varenicline PGD.

- Assessment of suitability for initiation and subsequent supply of Champix should still be completed for **all** patients but this can be completed by telephone consultation with the patient.
- Electronic issue of prescription for the initiation pack and electronic repeat dispensing for subsequent supply should be utilised where possible.
- Collection of Champix should be as per the arrangements in place at each individual pharmacy.

PharmOutcomes Templates

All grace periods for data entry will be removed until 1st September 2020.

Kind Regards

Emma Davis

Phillippa Sellstrom

EJ Davis

PSellstrom