

Dear colleague,

As you are aware the Covid-19 epidemic is expected to have a substantial effect on the services provided by York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Community Services, especially District Nursing (DN) teams.

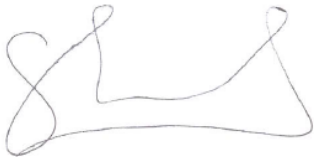
We are committed to ensuring all your clients remain well, as many of them will be in the highly vulnerable category of the population that require shielding. To maintain your client's safety the DN teams are currently reviewing their caseloads in line with the government recommendations, and where possible are actively encouraging patients to self-care, or family members to provide care to help us to reduce the risks posed to patients by the number of people visiting their home.

This may mean we reduce the amount of times we visit clients. We may also encourage you and your staff to take on some responsibilities you would not normally do. This would also allow the DN teams to be freed up to look after more Covid-19 cases, requiring symptom control and end of life management, which the government is anticipating.

Some of the roles we would ask you to consider undertaking may include testing blood sugar levels, simple wound care and pressure ulcer prevention. We would provide additional training or support, and would therefore encourage you to contact your DN team via the Single Point of Access on 01904 721200 to let them know if you would be interested in supporting your clients this way.

We are aware that you may not be in a position to support the DN teams with this, and where this is the case we will continue to provide visits for vulnerable clients, but look forward to working with you to maintain your client's safety.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Reed', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steve Reed

Head of Community Services