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By Email Only:

Welsh Government – Letter to Pharmacies re CPCF April 2021
(Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework Arrangements 2021-22)

This alert has been cascaded to the following:

All Wales Pharmacies
All Wales HB Primary Care Managers
All Wales HB Pharmacy & Prescribing Advisors
All Wales Pharmacy Committees
To:  
All Community Pharmacies in Wales

Cc:  
Chief Executive, Community Pharmacy Wales  
Director, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Wales)

Our Ref: AE/LS/CPCF2120

12 April 2021

Dear colleague,

**Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework Arrangements 2021-22**

In the last year, community pharmacies have played a significant role as a vital source of support and advice within our communities, not only dispensing people’s medicines but also providing high quality clinical services for patients.

In recognition of the critical role of community pharmacy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister for Health and Social Services recently announced additional investment of up to £9.1m in the network, of which £8.5m was specifically to meet COVID-19 associated costs. Earlier this month it was also confirmed that community pharmacy staff are eligible for the £500 bonus payment being paid to every NHS worker in Wales.

Now, as community pharmacies return to provide more routine care, it is imperative we learn from the experience of the last 12 months. In particular, we must use the changes made during the pandemic as a springboard for the wider contractual reforms that will underpin the clinical community pharmacy service needed by people and the NHS in Wales now and in the future.

While constructive discussions continue with Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) on longer-term reform of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF), we have already agreed a range of changes to the CPCF for 2021-22. These changes, which include additional recurrent investment of £3.0m, support our shared longer-term intentions to increase the range and availability of clinical services including those which utilise independent prescribing.

The detail of the agreed changes are as follows:

1. New arrangements to support the integration of community pharmacies within primary care clusters, including the creation of a funded primary care cluster
community pharmacy lead (pharmacy lead) in each cluster and changes to support pharmacies to engage with the pharmacy lead on relevant priorities;

2. A revised quality and safety scheme with a focus on improving the safe use of sodium valproate and antipsychotic medicines in at risk groups;

3. Removal of the cap on the number of Discharge Medicines Reviews (DMRs) each pharmacy can complete to encourage community pharmacies to support hospital discharge and prevent readmissions;

4. An additional £2.9m to support commissioning local and national services. The additional funding will cover higher health board costs arising from inflationary increases in service fees (linked to the NHS pay agreement), growth in service activity, and an agreement with CPW to revisit the gross profit available to pharmacies from clinical services;

5. An increase in the funding available to support independent prescribing pathfinder services from £0.5m to £1.0m. A further £0.2m will continue to be available to health boards to support set-up costs; and

6. Access to support for pharmacists undertaking independent prescribing (IP) training and pre-registration pharmacy technician training from Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) comprising:

- funding of IP course fees and a training bursary of £3,000 to support pharmacist release from their substantive post to meet the mandatory programme requirements of 12 contact days with the Designated Supervising Practitioner (DSP) or Designated Supervising Medical Practitioner (DSMP); and

- £2,000 bursaries for pharmacy technician protected learning time for pre and post registration development.

Further details for all pharmacy development funding will be available in the CPW newsletter and HEIW and CPW social media from mid-April 2021 to autumn 2021.

Further details of these changes will be published in the Drug Tariff in due course.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Evans
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