

**Prif Swyddog Fferyllol
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To: All community pharmacies in Wales
Cc: Directors of Finance, Local Health Boards

By email

Our Ref: AE/COVID

27 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Important Funding Information for Community Pharmacies

This letter sets out further steps the Welsh Government are taking to ease the financial pressures community pharmacies in Wales face, as a result the current COVID-19 situation.

We recognise there has been a significant increase in prescription volumes resulting from COVID-19 and that this will be causing cash flow problems for many pharmacies facing larger than anticipated wholesaler bills. To alleviate the immediate cash flow issue we will make a one off increase in advance payments to community pharmacies. The additional advance will be in the order of £50m. We anticipate this payment will be made before 7 April and will be in addition to the advance paid at the end of March.

The advance will apply to all community pharmacies included in the pharmaceutical list on 1 April the value of this one off advance will be the same as the advance paid at the end of March.

The advance will be recovered over a ten month period in equal instalments starting on 1 June, unless a pharmacy is for any reason, removed from the pharmaceutical list, in which case it will be made as soon as possible before the account is closed.

I remain incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of every community pharmacy team in Wales. I trust these measures will go some way to alleviating any immediate cash flow problems faced by some community pharmacies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'E'.

Andrew Evans BPharm(Hons) MPH FRPharmS
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer/Prif Swyddog Fferyllol
Welsh Government/Llywodraeth Cymru