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Date 23/06/2020
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Department for
Communities & Wellbeing

Julie Gonda
Interim Executive Director – Communities
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Dear Pharmacies,

Re: supervised consumption

Bury Council remains committed to supporting our community pharmacy partners during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Supervised consumption rates have fallen dramatically as a result of our service users complying with social distancing, shielding and isolation as well as in response to availability of this service in community pharmacies and new working practices. To date there has been no negative implications to patient outcomes as a result of the change in practices and the situation continues to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Bury Council has decided to pay the average costs of the last 6 months of supervised consumption to their community pharmacy partners during April, May and June.

So for April 2020, we will pay the equivalent of the average of our supervised consumption spend for October 2019 to March 2020, in May 2020 the equivalent of the average of our supervised consumption spend for November 2019 to April 2020 and in June the average of our supervised consumption spend for December to May.

We feel this is an accurate predictor of this spend compared with a “stand-alone” monthly figure. Bury will not pay supervised consumption costs for new prescriptions that have previously never been supervised, or pharmacies that have not dispensed the prescription at all due to extended closures. So these are legacy payments based on previous prescriptions being live in the pharmacy where these were initiated.

From July 2020 going forward Bury Council is currently reviewing its position. Bury Council welcomes open dialogue with our LPC partners to review our ways of working together in the post-Covid-19 clinical landscape.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours Faithfully

Jon Hobday
Consultant in Public Health

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