

April 2020

Substance Misuse Update for contractors

Dear Contractors,

Firstly, we would like to thank you and your pharmacy teams for your continued hard work to support our local patient populations.

We have received feedback from contractors regarding the current cash flow issues and financial impact of COVID-19 on losses of income in relation to substance misuse services.

Substance Misuse

The GMLPC, Bolton LPC and CHL are collectively working with local substance misuse providers to help them understand the financial losses that contractors are facing due to COVID-19. We are currently in the process of ensuring that contractors receive payment to offset the loss of Supervised consumption costs.

GMMH have now agreed to pay pharmacies for based on an average payment from April 2019 – December 2019. Further information will be communicated to contractors in due course.

Turning point have also announced that they will also be paying contractors based. Further information will be communicated to contractors in due course.

We are currently in contact with all other substance misuse providers and commissioners who are currently in the decision-making stage. We will update all contractors on the outcomes when they are available.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind contractors that dispensing methadone and substance misuse prescriptions forms part of the essential terms of service for Community Pharmacy.

We have had reports of Community Pharmacies refusing to dispense prescriptions in a number of areas.

If your pharmacy is struggling with capacity, require support, or have any other concerns, you are required to inform the substance misuse team and the LPCs in the first instance. This will allow the substance misuse providers, commissioners and the LPCs to support you and take your circumstances into consideration and support you appropriately.

We would encourage you to continue to support this vulnerable population wherever possible and express our gratitude for your continued support to ensure we meet the essential terms of service.

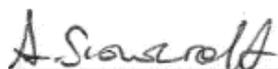
Once again, we thank you and the pharmacy teams for your ongoing support and hard work during this difficult time.

The LPCs and CHL will continue to work hard on your behalf to ensure we escalate any key issues and mitigate any losses you have incurred due to COVID-19.

Best Wishes



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