

The medicines Optimisation team are now working from home and there is no-one in the office. Please send all queries to the team inbox: MECCG.PIMMS@nhs.net

Please bear with us as like yourselves we are dealing with many challenges. We will do our best to respond in a timely manner but do consider that queries that have a wider impact may take longer to respond to whilst we seek guidance.

We have set up a new page on our website for Covid-19 medicines resources:

<https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/covid-19-resources>

Community pharmacy Easter opening times

There are number of pharmacies that will be open over the public holidays on Friday 10 April to Monday 13 April across Mid Essex. But as local pharmacies opening times are subject to change, therefore the advice is to check pharmacy websites or call beforehand to avoid making unnecessary journeys.

www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-pharmacy

****CLENIL® update****

We have been informed from the manufacturer that Clenil® is coming back into stock and should be available by early next week. Any stock shortages reported by wholesalers will be due to the delay in the supply chain and not a manufacturing problem, and these will resolve over the next week or two.

ONPOS Stock Dressings

ONPOS stock dressings are now being held in 8 out of our 15 nursing homes in Mid Essex- and all will have stock set up by the end of April. In addition, our Extended Access hubs are now holding ONPOS stocks of dressings. There is therefore no need for GPs to prescribe dressings for patients in these care settings where dressings are being done on-site.

In addition, several practices have also been set up with this ONPOS stock dressing system. Feedback from practices is that the wound care training provided at the same time has been very beneficial. However, recognising the pressure that practices are under, no new practices will be offered this (now virtual) training proactively; however, should a practice still wish to continue this programme and be set up with ONPOS stock dressings this can be arranged. Contact MECCG.PIMMS@nhs.net. We would like to highlight that the purchase of all dressings ordered through ONPOS are directly funded by the CCG.

All resources relating to this can be found under the wound care section of our website. [LINK](#)

Sending an EPS prescription without a nomination for acute scripts (LINK)

In light of community pharmacies opening and closing at different times due to COVID-19 we have developed guidance for prescribers on how to send EPS acute prescription without a pharmacy nomination and the prescription remains floating on the spine until it is retrieved by a pharmacy of the patient's choice. This is to avoid unnecessary repeat visits out if the patient's usual pharmacy is closed.

If doing this then it is recommended to email the ETP barcode number from the prescription token to the patient so to make it easier for the community pharmacy to retrieve the prescription.

Please remind patients that acute prescriptions sent electronically via EPS4 will not be ready immediately from the pharmacy. The prescription will still need to be retrieved from the spine by the community pharmacy. Then the medication will need to be clinically screened for safety, prepared and checked whilst the patient is there in the same way as if they had physically brought the prescription into the pharmacy themselves.

COVID PROTECT anticoagulation optimisation

Mid Essex CCG are highly recommending GP practices to use a primary care clinical support COVID-19 PROTECT interface which is available through Advice & Guidance (Eclipse Live) using your usual Eclipse log in details and passwords. This interface is a web-based support tool that links with all primary care systems. It is already available, ***is centrally funded and free to use***. It is supported by the Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership.

The new COVID protect has a tool to identify shielded patients on warfarin that require review.

A how to guide has been developed to show you how you can identify priority patients according to their COVID-19 risk score to review them. It can also identify appropriate patients for DOAC optimisation.

The how to guide can be found on our website [LINK](#)