

## COVID -19 Medicines optimisation key messages for practices – Issue 6

Please send all queries to the team inbox: [MECCG.PIMMS@nhs.net](mailto: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://midsexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/covid-19-resources>

### COVID 19 Protect surveillance – ‘how to guide’ for alerts

The CCG medicines management/COVID Surveillance team undertakes daily surveillance (including weekends and bank holidays) of alerts triggered by the patient questionnaires for GP practices who have requested this support.

For practices managing their own surveillance alerts in we have developed a [‘how to guide’ for processing alerts](#) (LINK). If you require further guidance on this then please get in touch.

All resources relating to implementing and using COVID 19 Protect can be found here: <https://midsexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/covid-19-resources/covid-protect-resources-eclipse-advice-and-guidance>

### Palliative Care and access to End of Life Medicines

There are 9 designated palliative care community pharmacies across the STP holding an agreed list of EoL medicines, to be used when the patient’s usual pharmacy has stock issues-these are listed in this [patient information leaflet](#) (LINK). To improve access to EoL medicines prescribers should consider:

- **Quantity prescribed-** minimum necessary. It is not always necessary to prescribe in whole ‘original’ packs. Prescribing smaller quantities more frequently reduces supply chain issues and wastage whilst continuing to meet patient needs.
- **In time critical situations** telephone the pharmacy to check stock availability and agree delivery time.
- **Providing the barcode number** to pharmacist/ family/HCP so an EPS prescription can be found more quickly on the spine.

List of designated pharmacies and drugs list have been sent to practices. Further information on palliative care see the section on our [website](#) LINK

### Food delivery information for high risk patients

Patients with friends, family or a support network in their community who can support them to get food and medicine, should continue to do so. For patients without local support from family or friends there are a number of options outlined in the guide on the website [LINK](#). This includes information on priority supermarket delivery slots.

### NHS Volunteer responders

NHS Volunteer Responders is delivered by NHS England and NHS Improvement in partnership with Royal Voluntary Service and the GoodSam Responders app. 750,000 volunteers have signed up since 24 March.

NHS Volunteer Responders can be asked to help individuals with tasks such as:

- collecting and delivering shopping and other essential supplies
- delivering medicines from pharmacies
- driving patients to appointments
- bringing them home from hospital
- making regular phone calls to check on people isolating at home
- transporting medical supplies and equipment for the NHS

Eligible patients are those in the most vulnerable high-risk group of patients where they do not have support locally from family or friends.

Referrals for volunteer support can be made by any health and social care professional and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Organisations.

Information on how to refer patients to [NHS volunteer responders](#) (LINK) is available on the website

### Hospital anticoagulation clinic provision

We have updated information relating to patients prescribed anticoagulants (blood thinning agents) who are attending and being monitored by hospital anticoagulant clinics. This can be found in a document [LINK](#) on the website. Patients attending these clinics will be contacted by the anticoagulant service to update them on the process.

### Ramadan, medication and fasting

Advice regarding risk of fasting for patients with specific medical conditions and when to take medication has been issued by The British Islamic Medical Association.

Guidance can be found on the website [LINK](#).