



COVID -19 Medicines optimisation key messages for practices – Issue 18

Please send all queries to the team inbox: MECCG.PIMMS@nhs.net Refer to our website for Covid-19 medicines resources: <https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/covid-19-resources> There is now a patient information section where you will find useful resources for your patients: <https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/covid-19-resources/patient-information>

MOCH team transition service

The Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes (MOCH) team have been contacting each PCN to discuss and agree with PCNs what support is required and develop a written workplan.

The MOCH extension arrangements details specifically what has been commissioned from the MOCH team over this transition period (end of March 2021), which has been circulated to all clinical directors. We ask that a summary of care homes by PCN be completed with the MOCH team, so that we can develop a central overview of resources supporting care homes-in particular pharmacist resource- and know what each PCN has asked the MOCH team to deliver.

The MOCH team run a Medication Helpline for care homes which is available 7 days a week 10am until 8pm—so please promote the use of this helpline to your care homes. See link to the [Medication helpline flyer](#).

Coming soon from **PrescQIPP** Community Interest Company FREE, new, updated **Practice Medicines Co-ordinators e-learning course**

The course has 10 modules and three case studies, and includes the following updates:

- + EPS release 4 and eRD
- + Proxy ordering in care homes
- + Online script ordering and the NHS App
- + Third party ordering and "Prescription Ordering Direct (POD)" services
- + Clinical system screenshots
- + Promoting self-care, including the NHSE guidance on "Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care"
- + NHSE "Guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care"
- + Community pharmacy (managed repeats and new services e.g. the Community Pharmacy Consultation Scheme)
- + PCNs, with particular reference to practice pharmacists and technicians

Access here:

<https://moodle.prescqipp.info/login/index.php>

Medicines deliveries during the Covid-19 pandemic in Essex, Update October 2020

Wherever possible, relatives, neighbours and friends of the patient(s) should be encouraged to collect and deliver medication on their behalf where they are fit and able to do so. The NHS has worked closely with colleagues in the voluntary and social sector to see how volunteers can be mobilised in localities to provide support to pharmacies with making deliveries to vulnerable patients. This is via the NHS Responders Programme.

Local voluntary organisations and the Essex Wellbeing Service may be able to offer further support.

In Essex the current model for residents to access support with medicines deliveries is:

1. Friends, family and usual support network
2. Pharmacy's own regular delivery service (there may be a charge for this service)

If neither of these can support, then there is support via the volunteers below:

3. The NHS Volunteer Responders Programme remains active and all previously shielded and/or otherwise vulnerable patients can access this support by calling 0808 196 3646 (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week). Further details can be found at <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/>
4. Essex Wellbeing Service and other local **volunteering organisations may be able to signpost or support: For more information please contact your local voluntary service or the Essex Wellbeing Service (formerly Essex Welfare Service) <https://www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk/> Telephone number 0300 303 9988.**

New approved guidance – published to the website

[Sodium valproate continuing care guidance on the requirements of the Prevent valproate pregnancy prevention programme](#)

[Generic prescribing guidelines](#)

Click on the links to view.

MOLES 20/21 focus project switches for November

The recommended switch projects for November are:

	Cost effective brand(s)
Venlafaxine MR 225mg only	Vencarm® XL 225mg capsules
Quetiapine MR tablets	Biquelle® or Brancico®
Galantamine prolonged release capsules	Galzemic® XL capsules

Emails will shortly be sent out to practices.