

To: All Community Pharmacists

**Directorate of Integrated Care
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Dear Colleague

INVESTMENT INTO COMMUNITY PHARMACY SERVICES - COMPLIANCE SUPPORT 2018/19

In my previous correspondence of 16th November 2018 in relation to investment into Community Pharmacy Services I advised that £3m additional funding had been identified in recognition of the provision of medicines in a suitable format to support the delivery of domiciliary care services.

In response to the concerns raised in relation to the significant work involved in supporting other patients with their medicines adherence, a further £1.4m will be released for the 18/19 year.

Payment model

CPNI proposed an allocation model for the £4.4m on the following basis:

- 50% of funding distributed evenly across all pharmacies (£4135)
- 50% of funding distributed according to Multiple Dispensing (MD) fees April to December 2018

This option has been accepted by HSCB for this year only and payment will be made to pharmacy contractors with the February payment for the entirety of the 2018/19 year.

Communication to Trusts

I will be writing to Trusts to request that only patients who have received a formal assessment and require compliance support as part of their overall care are referred to community pharmacy. In these instances the

hospital will provide an initial supply of medicines in a suitable form for the patient at discharge.

It has also been noted that MDS has been requested for some patients that are being cared for in residential home settings managed by Trusts. I will be asking Trusts to review the requirement for MDS and to move to normal supply arrangements if appropriate.

Finally, it is evident that in certain circumstances, pharmacies have been requested to provide medicines in compliance aids in advance of discharge from hospital. This is not appropriate and I will be reminding Trusts of their responsibilities in providing medicines in a suitable form at discharge so that patients can be handed over safely to primary care.

Action required by community pharmacists

Pharmacy contractors are asked to ensure that **where requests are received from Trusts** to provide medicines in a suitable format to meet patients' needs the necessary arrangements are made to facilitate these requests.

It is acknowledged that other requests for compliance support may arise from other parties. Community pharmacies should continue to consider such requests in line with their DDA obligations.

Where the HSCB identifies failure to comply, the HSCB reserves the right to recover all, or part of, this funding.

An agreed commissioning model for compliance support services continues to be a priority. I trust the transitional arrangements which we have agreed with CPNI provides some certainty for the short term. In the coming months we will be working collaboratively to establish a robust methodology which meets the needs of service and patients. This will include assessment of underlying need, prioritisation of need and service specification and delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management