

To: All Community Pharmacy
Contractors

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15th November 2018

Dear Colleague

PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE FOR SORE THROATS, COLDS & FLU-LIKE ILLNESS

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a new Pharmacy First service which has been developed in partnership with CPNI and will be available from 1st December 2018 until 31st March 2019*. The service enables patients to consult with their community pharmacist first for advice and treatment for sore throats, colds and flu-like illness.

*** Please note, if level of activity suggests potential overspend the service may be withdrawn prior to 31st March 2019.**

Background

“Delivering Together”¹ describes the need for enhanced support for primary care. Community Pharmacy is recognised as an important part of primary care which can help to reduce pressure on other parts of the HSC. In line with this strategic direction the Department of Health has made funding available, through Transformation funding streams, to enable this initiative to be available in community pharmacies to help address winter pressures on the health service.

Service outline

The aim of the Pharmacy First Service is to displace activity, including consultations, advice and generating prescriptions for these common conditions, from general practice to a community pharmacy based

¹ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/health-and-wellbeing-2026-delivering-together.pdf>

service and promote the role of the community pharmacist as the first port of call for the management of sore throats, colds and flu-like symptoms.

A brief summary of the service is provided in Appendix 1.

Training

I am writing to invite you to attend one of the following training events.

Date	Veune	Time
Wednesday 21st November 2018	Clock 3, Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Thursday 22nd November 2018	CR1 & 2, Riddell Hall, Belfast	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Monday 26th November 2018	W J Mayes Hall, Craigavon Civic Centre	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Tuesday 27th November 2018	Courtyard Room, Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday 28th November 2018	Chestnut Suite, Lisburn Civic Centre, Lagan Valley Island	7:30pm – 9:00pm

Please note: One pharmacist from each pharmacy is required to attend one of these training sessions in order for that pharmacy to be eligible to provide the service. It will be the responsibility of the pharmacy contractor to ensure that the training is cascaded to other pharmacists providing the service, including locums.

I look forward to your participation in delivering this service.

Yours sincerely,

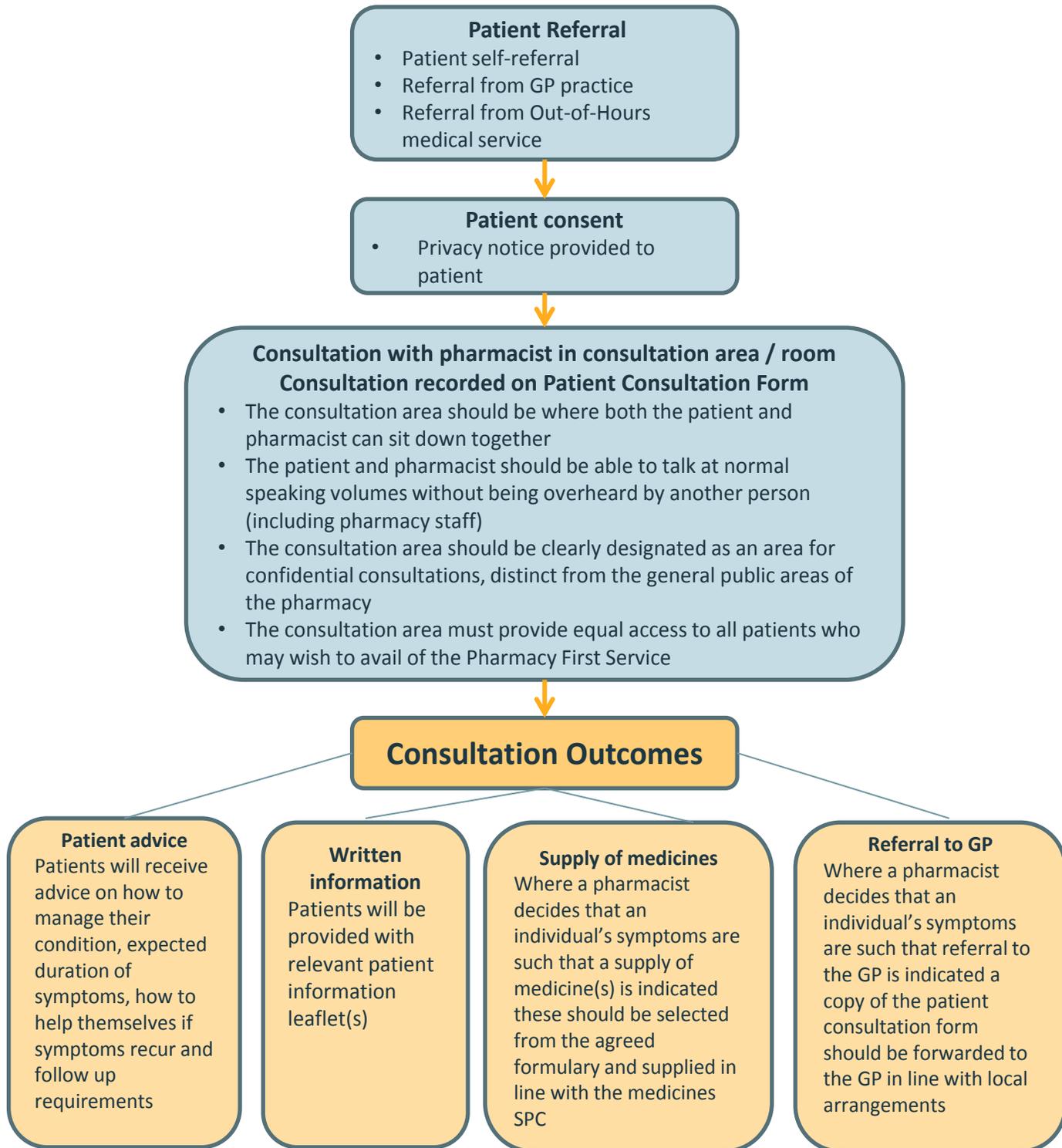


Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

Enc. Appendix 1: Pharmacy First Service for Sore Throats, Colds & Flu-Like Illness

Pharmacy First Service for Sore Throats, Colds and Flu-Like illness

Service Outline



Patient Consultation Form (triplicate form)

BSO Pharmacy

Top copy (white) sent with 2nd prescription submission (service payment & evaluation)

GP practice

Yellow copy sent securely to GP practice where referral necessary

Pharmacy

Pink copy retained in pharmacy