

Core brief

Thursday 19 March 2020

Introduction

This issue of Core Brief provides a COVID-19 update.

COVID-19 update (Thursday 19 March, 12.15pm)

Update to visiting arrangements

Following Scottish Government guidance, we have introduced stricter guidance for visiting patients across all wards and departments.

From **today** – the guidance for visiting patients who **are not** being treated for COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 is:

- Visiting is limited to one visitor per patient, for one hour per day – at a time of their choosing to avoid groups congregating outside the ward doors or at the hospital entrance.
- Parents' of paediatric patients, birthing partner, main carer, nominated person for a vulnerable adult or someone visiting a person receiving end of life care are being asked to please phone the nurse/midwife in charge to discuss flexibility.

No children should visit unless there are exceptional circumstances and this has been approved by the nurse/midwife in charge. We are also asking all visitors to help by not congregating outside wards or in corridors.

The regulations for those visiting patients **who are** being treated for COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 are stricter. Visiting is limited to one essential visitor per patient, for one hour per day between **7pm and 8pm**. Ideally, this should be a partner or carer.

The Corporate Communications Directorate is arranging for a supply of posters to be printed and distributed to enable information to be displayed at entrances. Information is also being posted on our social media channels. Please help us to spread the message and share our posts.

Process for ordering supplies for primary, community and acute services

We are aware there have been questions on ordering stock related to COVID-19, in particular PPE.

There are restrictions in place on some items being ordered via the Pecos catalogue from National Procurement.

For COVID-19 stock which cannot be ordered through the Pecos catalogue, or for deliveries which do not arrive please email:

COVID-19@GGCprocurementcustomerservices.zendesk.com with the following details:

- Item type required
- Quantity required
- Required delivery date.

Medical supplies

Medicines contingency planning is being co-ordinated at UK level. Clinical experts across the UK have been approached to identify a list of supportive medicines that may be required by patients who are hospitalised for treatment e.g. analgesics, antibiotics, sedatives, cardiovascular medicines, respiratory medicines, steroids, vasopressors/inotropes, neuromuscular blocking agents and electrolytes. There is expected to be increased demand for these medicines. NHSScotland National Procurement and the other home country procurement agencies, co-ordinated by the Department of Health, are liaising with suppliers to seek to secure additional stock to meet an increase in demand.

NHSGGC Pharmacy Services have significant experience of dealing with supply problems and continue to work closely with National Procurement to communicate any issues and have also developed an in-house 'watch list' to ensure that there is particular focus on stock levels of critical medicines where use is most likely to increase.

In Primary Care, Community Pharmacists and Community Pharmacy Scotland are in regular contact with the main wholesalers to ensure that they have contingency plans in place to maintain wherever possible the current twice a day delivery service to ensure continuity of medicine supply to the community pharmacy network. **Healthcare professionals should continue to advise their patients to order only what they need for their own requirements. There is no need to stockpile any medicines during this period.**

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