

Pharmacy and Prescribing Support Unit

Clarkston Court
56 Busby Road
Clarkston
Glasgow
G76 7AT



To:

All GP practices, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Date
Your Ref
Our Ref
Tel
Email

22 December 2020

SMS/SD
0141 201 6022
prescribing@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Dear colleague

Scottish Government has put in place plans to reduce the risks to the supply of medicines, medical devices and clinical consumables after the interim arrangement for trading with the EU (EU Transition Period) expires on 31st December 2020. These are detailed in the attached letter from the CMO and CPO.

- **GP practices, community pharmacies, hospitals, social care providers and members of the public should not stockpile.**
- **Prescriptions should be issued as normal.**
- **Members of the public do not need to do anything new or different.**

It is normal practice for a 56 day supply to be given on repeat/long-term prescriptions and practices should NOT increase this quantity or provide additional scripts early. The current flow of medicines through pharmacy and wholesaler ordering would not be able to manage such an increase in demand. These shortage issues would then significantly increase the burden on GP practice and community pharmacy to manage, consider alternatives medicines and risk the ongoing supply of medicines to the public in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Imagine the scenario where, for example, one patient was prescribed 4 months supply of insulin but another patient cannot get supply because none was available and the stress and workload this would generate.

We encourage, if appropriate, moving medicines that are repeatedly prescribed onto serial prescriptions, which will ensure the patient's community pharmacy manages the ongoing supply of these medicines while addressing any pharmaceutical care issues the patient may have.

Scottish Government highlights that shortages are a regular occurrence and the NHSGGC Central Prescribing Team will continue to monitor the local situation, providing information to the Practice Pharmacy Teams and back to Scottish Government. If you have any questions about shortages please continue to discuss these with your Practice Pharmacy Team members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sean MacBride-Scott'.

pp **Audrey Thompson**
Lead Pharmacist for Prescribing Services