

### Sharing Shielded Status with Local Community Pharmacies

At the Dorset CCG Clinical Directors meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020, the 18 Clinical Directors, Local Medical Committee lead, CCG Medical Director and Director of Primary Care & all agreed that if possible and safe that the names of the shielded patients should be shared with community pharmacies, in the interests of the patient. The list should not share any clinical details.

The community pharmacies can identify shielded patients through the Summary Care Record. However, at present this is a patient by patient process and for several hundred patients would be very time consuming. Having a list will help pharmacies to plan delivery services to shielded patients.

Please note the nationally commissioned delivery service to shielded patients via community pharmacies is separate to the local volunteer delivery services. It is specific to shielded patient only and nationally funded in support of covid-19 community pharmacy continuity.

Working with CCG Data Protection and Security Advisory Team, and within guidance produced by the BMA ([Covid-19 ethical issues statement](#)), the Royal Pharmaceutical Society ([RPS guidance on ethical, professional decision making in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)) and also the Department of Health and Social Care ([Covid-19 – Notice under Regulation 3\(4\) of the Health Service Control of Patient Information Regulations 2002](#)) we are confident that Practices and Community Pharmacies can share this shielded information in the best interests of the patient and within the remit of healthcare purposes.

We would ask Practices to consider where possible and safe the following points:

- Liaise and communicate with Practice/PCN Pharmacy teams and community pharmacies to create the list using a S1 search. Some Practices have created the search already and would be willing to share the search template. Please let us know if this is something you would benefit from by contacting [medicine.question@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:medicine.question@dorsetccg.nhs.uk).
- Practices are asked to collaborate with community pharmacies to make clear why they are being sent the information and what they can do with the data.
- Practices filter their list and only send details of patients to the pharmacy that the patient is registered at for receiving their medication (their nominated pharmacy), to ensure that the sharing is sensible and proportionate. If it is possible, it would be advisable for Practices to **filter the list further** so that it only includes the shielded patients who have **regular repeat prescriptions**.
- Transfer of the information needs to happen securely, and this can be achieved between Practices and community pharmacies using nhs.net accounts and password protection with agreement between community pharmacies and the Practice.
- Only the minimum necessary information should be sent.
- Community pharmacies are requested to ensure that the list is securely disposed of once they have updated their pharmacy records and to confirm with the Practice when the list has been destroyed.
- **This needs careful local communication and collaborative working between pharmacies and practices**

*NHS Digital state on their website that GP practices are receiving the list for patients in their care, and CCGs are receiving the list for the purposes of providing GP practices with support, and patients in their CCG area with support and care. We would advise that Practices sending this information to the community pharmacies meets this purpose*

**Medicines Optimisation Team**  
**Dorset CCG**

V 2 Revised 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020