

Agenda Item: 13

Report to: Primary Care Commissioning Committee
Date of meeting: 04/08/2020
Date paper distributed: 30/07/2020
Subject: Out of Hours Pharmacy Palliative Care Medicines Service
Presented by: Rachel Barrowcliff
Previously distributed to: None

STATUS OF THE REPORT (auto check relevant box)	
Decision required	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Discussion to give Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/> (Only if requested by Committee member prior to meeting)
For Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report Exempt from Public Disclosure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To update the committee regarding the new service provision from a pharmacy, to provide out of hours cover for access to urgent palliative care medicines.
Recommendations:	To note the update for the new Emergency Out of Hours service and the actions taken to ensure the appropriate contracting arrangements are in place.
Clinical Engagement	The service has been discussed and agreed with both the CCG Medical Director and Director of Quality.
Patient/Public Engagement	Not applicable.
Committee Process and Assurance:	The reimbursement fees were agreed by Chair's Action in May 2020.

Link to CCG's Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable services <input type="checkbox"/> • Empowering people <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Fit for purpose organisation <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any specific and/or overt risks relating to one or more of the following areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal <input type="checkbox"/> • Finance <input type="checkbox"/> • Quality <input type="checkbox"/> • Equality analysis (and Due Regard Duty) <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data protection <input type="checkbox"/> • Performance <input type="checkbox"/> • Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide a summary of the identified risk

There is a risk to the provision of the service due to only one provider; the CCG will continue to review and work with the provider to ensure the service continues, with no disruption.

Executive Summary

Background

Currently the CCG commissions four community pharmacies to stock palliative care medicines. However, this service is only provided within the current opening hours of the respective pharmacies. Access to medicines in the out of hours period has been highlighted as an issue and the CCG are looking to commission a community pharmacy to provide out of hours access, initially to assist the CCG in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic but the service may also be required thereafter.

Whilst the demand for out of hours provision of anticipatory drugs is relatively low, the impact on the patient, when the need arises is significant and could result in a hospital admission. It is anticipated that as improvements set out in the End of Life Care programme are delivered, prescribing of anticipatory medicines will improve and requirements for out of hours dispensing will decrease.

Aims

To provide patients at the end of life dying in their preferred place, access to medicines for specialist palliative care services during the out of hours period and a reduction in unnecessary hospital admissions for patients at the end of life.

Description of the service

During the out of hours period (8pm to 8am daily) a community pharmacist will be on call. All pharmacists providing the service must have access and authorisation to open a pharmacy in the out-of-hours period.

Practitioners working with patients at the end of life during the OOH period will be able to contact the on-call community pharmacist to arrange for a community pharmacy to be opened for a prescription for urgent medications to be dispensed.

The prescription should be sent to the pharmacist electronically where possible. The on-call pharmacist will evaluate the prescription upon receipt and notify the prescriber of any issues or problems as soon as possible. The on-call pharmacist will then liaise with the prescriber regarding an estimated time of when the medication will be available for delivery or collection.

Remuneration

- £350 per week of cover provided **PLUS**
- £220 per call-out
- £75 per day for bank holidays

This fee has been based on the fee paid in another area which was agreed by their LPC. The remuneration has previously been agreed by Chair's Action.

Medicines to be stocked

Pharmacies commissioned to provide the OOH service will stock an agreed list of medicines. It is also proposed that pharmacies currently providing the palliative care service will stock the medicines listed and detailed as Part C Palliative Care Drugs, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. This will incur an additional cost of £165 per pharmacy.

Expressions of interest

With regard to the provision of the service, all community pharmacies in North East Lincolnshire have been approached and there has been one that expressed an interest, namely, Drugs for Delivery, which is an internet pharmacy provider. The CCG has confirmed with NHS England and NHS Improvement that this pharmacy would be eligible to provide the service. There is a risk in terms of the provision of the service as the CCG will be reliant on one provider to provide the on call service in addition to maintaining their day to day practice. However the pharmacy has confirmed that this would be possible.

Next Steps

The CCG will provide a Service Level Agreement for the pharmacy to sign with the next month. It is hoped that the service will be in place, in time for the forthcoming August bank holiday. Following the establishment of the service, a review will take place in three months to assess the ongoing needs and future requirements.

Recommendations

The committee is asked to note:

- The update for the new Emergency Out of Hours service and the actions taken to ensure the appropriate contracting arrangements are in place.