



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinistricí O Poustir

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To:  
**Pharmacy Contractors**

Dear Pharmacy Contractors

### **HSC COMMUNITY PHARMACY COMMISSIONING PLAN 2020/21**

The Department of Health, Health and Social Care Board and Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI) have agreed a commissioning plan for community pharmacy services in 2020/21, with associated funding.

The agreement follows a productive period of collaborative work which intensified in March and led to actions that helped maintain access to pharmacy services and protect staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The immense effort and success of community pharmacy during the pandemic has raised the profile of pharmacy within the HSC and among the public. Building on this and in recognition of the ongoing threat of COVID-19 a HSC commissioning plan for 2020/21 has been developed.

The commissioning plan aims to ensure that the public has safe access to medication, pharmaceutical advice, treatment of common conditions and support for their physical and mental health and well-being. It describes three key areas of focus for community pharmacy service provision as follows:

1. Pharmacy organisation: incorporating infrastructure, business continuity and collection and delivery.
2. Medicines Services: incorporating dispensing, compliance and adherence, emergency supply, palliative care, care homes, rota and pharmacy first.
3. Pharmaceutical public health: incorporating health improvement, oral substitution therapy and smoking cessation.

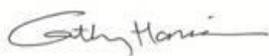
The financial envelope that accompanies the commissioning plan provides additional recurrent and non-recurrent funding which in summary:

- Provides an opening recurrent funding allocation of £112.4m which is expected to increase, subject to agreed inflationary uplifts later in the year.
- Commits to providing £20.75m in additional non recurrent funding related to the COVID-19 response during 2020/21. This is a combination of £7.5m already provided for the period April to June 2020 plus a further £13.25m which will be made available from July 2020 to March 2021.
- Confirms that the £35m advance payment made in March 2020 will be clawed back over 24 months from March 2021.

The agreement establishes community pharmacy as an integral part of the health and social care service. It is a product of a new way of working between the Department, HSC Board and CPNI which all parties are committed to maintain. It also recognises the vital role that community pharmacies have played to date during the pandemic and the importance of their contribution in the coming months.

The agreement is effective immediately and further, more detailed information will follow from the HSC Board.

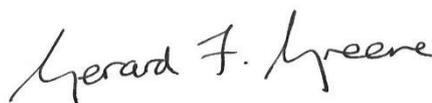
Yours sincerely,



Cathy Harrison  
Chief Pharmaceutical  
Officer  
DoH



Joe Brogan  
AD of Integrated Care  
Head of Pharmacy and  
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HSCB



Gerard Greene  
Chief Executive  
Community Pharmacy NI