

To:  
All Community Pharmacies  
Trust Chief Executives for onward  
distribution to:  
*Trust Community Addiction Teams*  
*Trust Substitute Prescribing Teams*

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Colleague,

**IMMEDIATE STAND DOWN OF COMMUNITY PHARMACY SUPERVISED  
CONSUMPTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPIOID SUBSTITUTION  
TREATMENT (OST)**

The HSCB are aware of the increasing pressure and demand that community pharmacy services are experiencing as a result of COVID-19.

In order to minimise the risk to pharmacy staff all current supervision arrangements for OST consumption are suspended until further notice. The prescription instalment requirements will not change e.g. daily dispensing.

Local Trust OST teams are aware of the pressures being experienced in community pharmacy and when new prescriptions are being issued they plan to reduce the frequency of supply in order to minimise footfall to the pharmacy e.g. moving from daily to weekly or twice weekly dispensing.

Pharmacies should liaise with local Trust OST keyworkers to make appropriate arrangements for safe supply. This is particularly important in the instance of a client who is currently self-isolating.

The HSCB will continue to liaise with local Trust OST teams and update community pharmacy as the situation changes.

Yours sincerely,



**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**

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