

To Dispensing Practices only

20th April 2020

Dear Colleagues

Temporary application of Regulation 61 of the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations and delivery services

I am writing to all dispensing practices to note that Regulation 61 of the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations now applies. This means dispensing practices can dispense to patients who are not currently on their list of dispensing patients, although this is in certain circumstances, noted in the Regulations as being related to temporary closure of pharmacy premises in that area.

This situation is not further outlined, and so the implications of what is represented by 'temporary closure' or 'that area' are not explicitly defined.

The DDA has further advice on their website.

I have also discussed these changes with the Surrey and Sussex Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) so they and their Community Pharmacy colleagues are aware of it.

The LMC recommends dispensing practices use the relaxation of the Regulations cautiously and in relation to their own practice list, by advising that, in circumstances where individuals have genuine difficulties in accessing Community Pharmacy services, the practice may be able to temporarily assist. It would be important to note this dispensation is only applicable during the Covid19 emergency.

In addition NHS England has requested that, as for pharmacy contractors, dispensing practices put in place a medicines delivery service for patients who meet the shielding criteria, whom you as their registered practice will be aware of, if these medicines cannot be delivered by a family member, friend, carer, or volunteer. There are supposedly additional funding arrangements for this service, although the LMC has not yet been advised of these.

If colleagues have any queries about either of these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the LMC.

With best wishes



Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

Local Medical Committees for
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,
East Sussex and West Sussex

The White House **T:** 01372 389270
18 Church Road **F:** 01372 389271
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 8BB **www.sslmcs.co.uk**