Commissioning People

 Ground Floor, Nicholas House

 1 Black Friars

 Chester

 CH1 2NU

 24 May 2019

Dear Pharmacists,

**EHC update - information for pharmacists \*\*ACTION REQUIRED\*\***

You have a contract agreed for the provision of EHC. Due to us currently experiencing a COVID-19 Pandemic, we would like to take steps to ensure we are all following government advice whilst still providing a vital service.

With immediate effect and throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will relax our local agreement by agreeing that:

* All consultations can be provided remotely (either by telephone or video call). We recommend that pharmacists use the PharmOutcomes template during the call to support the consultation
* Remote consultations should be the preferred method of service provision
* Where a patient is self-isolating, patient representatives can collect any medication being supplied or, if available, a delivery service can be used

The current PGDs have been updated to remove the face-to-face exclusion criteria, as detailed in the letter accompanying this one. **You should print off the letter from Champs explaining this change and store it with the PGDs.**

*All clinical and safeguarding considerations of the service remain unchanged.* Pharmacists should continue to use their professional knowledge and expertise to provide the best care to patients. All consultations must be recorded on PharmOutcomes as normal.

All other contractual terms and conditions will remain unchanged. If you are unable to provide the service please inform us as soon as possible, so we are able to map this provision regularly. This is a vital service we need to maintain, and if we all work together to reduce risks it is hoped the clients will not be majorly affected.

This is all based on the current picture as of today and may be subject to change based on any new local or national guidance, we will be back in touch if things change. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this briefing, please contact your LPC (Nick Thayer – nick@cpcw.org.uk) in the first instance.

Yours Faithfully,

Neil Boardman / Alison Johnston

Public Health Programme Lead / Commissioning Manager, People Services