

NHMC Newsletter

National Homecare Medicines Committee



COVID -19 Update from the Chair - Susan Gibert

THANK YOU from Susan Gibert and Alison Davis (Chair of NCHA)

We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic. The way the NHMC and NCHA have worked together has been amazing and this is a success which should be celebrated by you all.

COVID – 19 Successes

Homecare services - Homecare providers and NHMC successfully co-ordinated requests for 20,000 new homecare patients over 700+ services during COVID19. This demonstrated great collaboration between the NHS and our industry partners and the commitment shown in managing the new services coming through was unprecedented.

PPE- Through grit and determination from Susan Gibert and a Homecare company PPE supplies have been secured and delivered to homecare providers to ensure a safe service can be delivered to patients.

Implementation of change – quick response and implementation of change to current process for Drivers, doorstep delivery and Nurse care.

COVID-19 Lessons Learnt

NHMC and NCHA are collaborating to pull together the lessons learnt from COVID-19. There are many things to be celebrated and equally as many lessons to be learnt. The expectation is that homecare medicines services will continue to grow.

It may also now be a good time to look back on the homecare journey of the past few years to see how far homecare services have come from the early days in 1995 to the development of the Hackett report in 2010 through to COVID-19. Reflecting on our achievements will help us shape the future.

NHMC and NCHA will also be contributing to the wider NHS England and Improvement lessons learnt to help improve collaboration and networking.

NHS Digital Update – See Mun Wong

The Covid-19 outbreak has shone a light on the deficiencies in digital technology within the NHS as well as in homecare. These notably include challenges in obtaining wet-signed homecare prescriptions, risks of missing prescriptions and delays with postal service.

These challenges are nothing new in the homecare sector but have rapidly spiralled upwards during the pandemic as staff were asked to work remotely or stop commuting between hospital sites. Numerous attempts to seek an exemption for the wet signature or an advanced electronic signature requirement on homecare prescriptions did not bear fruit. Many have resorted to sending scanned wet-signed prescriptions by email to homecare providers in the interim. On a positive note, the crisis has accelerated digital development to support various key functions in homecare. Homecare is now featured in the NHSX roadmap in the development of the next generation of 'hospital EPS', subject to funding approval. The NCHA has agreed to work jointly with the NHMC to support NHSX to drive this forward. To address the issue of Trusts not having any ePMA system, the NCHA is also actively looking at alternative interim solutions for prescribing homecare medicines without the need for a wet signature. A digital signature tool which complies with the legal requirements of Advanced Electronic Signature is being explored. Other digital innovations that have been adopted by many homecare providers include remote / virtual nurse support to minimise any direct interaction with the most vulnerable patients. Such innovations may well remain as the 'new normal'.

Otherwise, I am delighted to take this opportunity to share our 5-year joint digital strategy which has recently been approved ([see the attached](#)). To help focus on our key objectives, we have also updated the output-based specification for the system-wide delivery of medicines in homecare. This is now published on the [RPS website](#) as appendix 15a.



Homecare Digital
Strategy 2019_final (a

CMU Update – Liz Payne

New team Member – CMU Homecare Team would like to welcome Michelle Clarke who will be taking up the sourcing role within the team from the 1st July. Michelle has been with CMU for 14 years working on the Branded Medicines team.

Pulmonary Hypertension - Contract has been awarded and the new contract went live on the 1st June 2020.

Home Parenteral Nutrition – Contract has been awarded and the new contract went live on the 1st April 2020.



Lloyds Pharmacy Clinical homecare have provided patient stories and feedback received from when drivers going have gone over and above to ensure patients are safe and they receive their deliveries.

Lloyds Drive went above and beyond when making a delivery to a patient's home, when upon arrival found the patient's husband had collapsed. Our Driver waited with the patient until the ambulance had arrived and continually reassured the patient, putting her mind at rest.

"My driver was so polite and so apologetic despite it not being the driver's fault as she knows that the road conditions down there are terrible".



Lloyds Driver has been highly praised by a member of the public for helping a member of the public who had fallen in a car park in Peterborough. The Driver helped the lady to her car following a fall and made sure she was ok before he left.

Bad flooding on main roads in Sheffield caused delays but patient still got their deliveries as drivers took alternative routes to ensure they completed the deliveries.



NCHA News
_Q22020v1.3_final.pdf
Q2 2020 Newsletter

Regional Homecare Leads

Please find below attachment for a complete list of Regional Homecare Leads.



2020 July NHMC &
PMSG Leads List MAS
(correct as 200106)

Useful Contacts

Susan Gibert – NHMC Chair Susan.Gibert@berkshire.nhs.uk
Liz Payne – Homecare Specialist CMU elizabeth.payne2@nhs.net

2020 NCHA Meetings:

19th November 2020 - NCHA All members meeting
4th February 2021 – NCHA Annual conference

2020 NHMC Meetings:

22nd September – Teams Meeting
10th November – Venue TBC

Useful Links

Royal Pharmaceutical Society - <https://www.rpharms.com/resources/professional-standards/professional-standards-for-homecare-services>

Specialist Pharmacy Service - <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/national-homecare-medicines-committee-nhmc-terms-of-reference/>

National Clinical Homecare Association – <https://www.clinicalhomecare.org/>

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry - <https://www.abpi.org.uk/>