

Thursday 14th May 2020 1600 hours

Important information for all General Practices – Please share this with everyone in your team

Prescriptions in COVID-19 Alert Level 2

- Prescribers can continue to give people hard copies of prescriptions to take to the pharmacy, however, where possible, sending prescriptions by electronic paperless means is still recommended.
- The MoH has extended its suspension of not needing to send originals of faxed prescriptions during Level 2.
- This suspension does not apply to controlled drug prescriptions, including codeine and benzodiazepines. These continue to require the original signed prescription to be sent to the pharmacy.

Changes to Acute Plans

- There has been a substantial increase in the use of Acute Plans during the COVID-19 response. These are a key tool to communicate information which will help clinical teams provide a safe and appropriate response to vulnerable patients who present with an exacerbation of a long term condition, or to document shared goals of care.
- From 13 May 2020 the Acute Plan will serve the same function, but have a simplified format and improved usability in response to feedback from users across the South Island.
- Previously created plans will present as originally written, but will change to the new format when updated.

Well Child Tamariki Ora Services during COVID-19 Alert Level 2

- Well Child Tamariki Ora services are resuming in-person contact with families, focusing on priority whānau first. They will also be continuing some virtual consultations. For more information see [HealthPathways > COVID-10 > Impact on Local Services](#).

Clinical Guidance for Patients with an Intellectual (Learning) Disability during COVID-19

- People with an intellectual (learning) disability are at a heightened risk of having a poor outcome from infection with COVID-19 in comparison to non-disabled people. There are MoH guidelines to ensure equity – see [HealthPathways > COVID-19 Impact on Clinical Care](#).

Back to Work Occupational Advice for At Risk People

- There are some useful resources, including a RNZCGP risk matrix and MoH guidance, for general practices to assess their own risk as well as advice to help patients who may be concerned about their safety in their own work environment. These can be found on [HealthPathways > COVID-19 Practice Management > Prepare and Protect Vulnerable Patients](#).

Kind regards,

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