

Friday 22nd May 2020 1200 hours

Important information for all General Practices, Community Pharmacies, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team

Promoting COVID-19 Testing in Your Practice

- If you are performing COVID-19 testing at your practice, you may want to consider promoting this to your patients if they are symptomatic so they are aware they can contact you as a first point to call.
- Consistent with national processes, people can refer themselves for testing via Healthline. For the purposes of accessibility and efficiency these people will be booked straight into a CBAC for testing if they meet the case definition.

New COVID-19 HealthPathways

- [COVID-19 Aged Residential Care Assessment and Management](#) is live on Community HealthPathways. This has been written specifically for GPs who manage care for ARC patients who may have, or are confirmed to have COVID-19 in the aged residential care facility in which they live.
- There is also a new [HealthPathways > COVID-19 Palliative Care](#) page.

NZ COVID Tracer App – Generating Your Business’s QR Code

- To support contact tracing you can print QR code posters to be displayed where your staff, clients and visitors enter your premises. For more information and to register for scan code posters, visit: <https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/contact-tracing>.

Oral Contraceptives – Disruption of Supply

- We are experiencing supply issues with:
 - Levonorgestrel 30mcg (Microlut)
 - Ethinylloestradiol 35mcg with norethisterone 500mcg (Norimin)
- PHARMAC has been working with suppliers to source alternatives, but they are not Medsafe-approved. The unapproved status means these medicines need to be supplied in accordance with section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981, which means that only doctors can prescribe them. Further information is available at: <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/information-for/enquiries/oral-contraceptives-supply-updates/>

Historical Discharges Being Finalised from ED

- A change in system means hospital clinicians have greater visibility of discharge summaries and other communications which have not yet been finalised, and will finalise some of these retrospectively. This means general practice teams may receive electronic communications about patients who have not been in hospital recently. These historical documents should be marked as such, but please verify the dates on all discharge summaries and other notes.

Kind regards,

Vince Barry
Primary EOC Controller

Dr Phil Schroeder and Dr Kim Burgess
Clinical Leads

Robyn Harris
Pharmacy Lead