

Monday 4th May 2020 1400 hours

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

Electronic Prescribing during COVID-19

- The MoH has enabled prescribers and pharmacists to use electronic signature-exempt paperless prescriptions, subject to certain requirements. Information is available on [HealthPathways > COVID-19 Requests and Local Processes](#). Key points are listed in the table below:

Summary of Signature-Exempt and Controlled Drug Electronic Prescriptions during COVID-19			
Note: Signature exempt prescriptions must meet the waiver requirements.			
Medicine Classification	Examples	Signature exempt waiver?	Original hardcopy required by the pharmacy?
Prescription medicines Non-controlled drugs	tramadol, zopiclone, furosemide	Yes	No
Class C Controlled Drugs Exempt or partially exempt	paracetamol & codeine combination, Gees's linctus, pholcodine	Yes	No
Class C Controlled Drugs (except those exempt above)	codeine, DHC, benzodiazepines, phenobarbitone, phentermine, buprenorphine,	No	Yes NZePS - ink signed original barcoded prescription Non-NZePS - ink signed original prescription
Classes A and B Controlled Drugs	morphine, fentanyl, pethidine, methylphenidate	No	Yes NZePS - ink signed original barcoded prescription Non-NZePS - ink signed Triplicate Controlled Drug prescription

Employer Requested COVID swabs

- Employers wanting reassurance may send employees in for swabbing to clear people for return to work. Do not recommend swabbing in this situation. Swabbing is still only indicated for people who have symptoms as per the case definition, unless the person is part of a public health initiated surveillance programme or contact tracing.

Influenza Surveillance

- General practices may be approached by CNG Health Research (HealthStat), who are working with the MoH this year to coordinate flu symptom surveillance by getting data from the PMS to ESR. This is legitimate, voluntary, and is instead of the usual influenza sentinel practice surveillance.

Hospital Specialist Communications

- General practice may notice documents coming directly into your inbox called General Clinical Communications. They are brief notes from hospital specialists and are a small step towards improving electronic communication.

Kind regards,

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