

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 1600 hours**

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

#### **ERMS hospital prescriptions, information for pharmacists**

- The hospital has started to use ERMS to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies and will shortly be using this process for emergency department and discharge prescriptions.
- If you do need to decline a prescription, e.g., if it is sent to the wrong pharmacy or is not a legal prescription, please use normal processes and ring the prescriber before declining. This ensures the problem is dealt with and a correct prescription follows. If a pharmacy experiences a problem getting hold of a prescriber or the prescription is not coming through, and the matter is not urgent, email: [ermsprescriptions@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:ermsprescriptions@cdhb.health.nz) and clinical pharmacology will follow up within around 24 hours.

#### **Increased illicit drug seeking behaviour**

- There have been a number of assaults on pharmacy staff over the period of COVID-19 which appear to be related to increased drug seeking behaviour.
- A pharmacy has also reported increased numbers of people purporting they were dispensed less than what was prescribed, with the possibility of this happening found to be very low. The medications concerned tend to be controlled drugs or other drugs of interest on the street. Please be aware of these type of claims and liaise with the pharmacy when required.

#### **New screening form and guidance for residents entering aged residential care facilities**

- MoH has recommended a new admission process to reduce the risk of a new or returning resident bringing COVID-19 into a facility. GPs working in aged residential care facilities, and GPs in the community whose patients are being admitted into a facility may be asked to confirm the criteria, and complete the new screening form, prior to the facility accepting new or returning residents.
- In practical terms this may require liaison and collaboration between aged residential care facility nursing staff, community nursing, current community GP, and the facility GP.
- Information is on [HealthPathways > COVID-19 Preparation for Aged Residential Care Staff](#).



#### **University of Otago General Practice Pandemic Experience, Canterbury and Beyond**

You are invited to join a project which will explore the experiences of Canterbury general practitioners, practice nurses, nurse practitioners, and practice managers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will involve regularly sharing your experiences, thoughts, and ideas about the effect the pandemic has had up until now and going forward. These

ideas and experiences will provide not only a valuable description of events, but also inform planning for the as yet unknown future trajectory and effects of the pandemic both within New Zealand and globally. In particular, the research will focus on the provision and delivery of community-based primary care.

Your contribution to this research will provide a unique opportunity to document this time of rapid change in primary care. Information about the study and sign up to participate is at:

[https://otago.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2g9eu6BpTQGSMPr](https://otago.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2g9eu6BpTQGSMPr).

Kind regards,

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