

Collaborative Working meeting – Sore throat test and treat

Following agreement with Welsh Government around collaborative working arrangements, you may wish to meet with your local Surgery to discuss the Sore throat test and treat (STTT) service that you provide at the pharmacy

- Speak to the local surgery and their triage teams (if they have them) about the service and what it entails. Ensure the teams are aware of the scope of the service, what patients can expect when they present at the pharmacy and realistic expectations of how long the patient will spend at the pharmacy.
- The STTT service complies with antibiotic stewardship guidelines, as only those patients who test positive on a Point of care test (POCT) are offered treatment. Some surgeries have challenged why the pharmacist would provide antibiotics when NICE guidance advises GPs not to prescribe antibiotics for sore throat. This does not take into account that the guidance is for those consultations where no POCT is carried out. More information on the evaluation of the STTT service can be found here: <https://www.dovepress.com/community-pharmacist-views-on-the-early-stages-of-implementation-of-a-peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-IPRP>
- Let the surgery know that the consultation is recorded on the chosen pharmacy platform and that they will receive a report of all consultations including read codes that will allow them to accurately update their records
- Some pharmacists have seen benefit in explaining to the practice the accreditation process and the additional training that they have received as part of the STTT rollout
- If you are part of an area that is being rolled out at the same time we would advise that at least one pharmacy in your locality makes arrangements to attend the local primary care cluster meeting to inform them that you have gone live.
- Ensure that you make them aware of the difference between STTT and the sore throat module on CAS which would only provide pain-killers to the patient.
- It would also be important to agree a protocol for when the service is not available such as signposting to another provider or to ensure the surgery are aware of any instances where the service would not be available.
- If you have attended a training event for STTT then you are able to claim attendance for the collaborative working service under Engaging in small group problem based learning activities coordinated by the Wales Centre for Pharmacy Professional Education