Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Services Group
Cangen Fferylliaeth a Rhagnodi
Pharmacy & Prescribing Branch

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

By email to: All Community Pharmacies in Wales

8 January 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Lateral Flow Test (LFT) Supply Service – Community Pharmacy Advanced Service

Further to the letter dated 17 November, this letter provides further details of the arrangements for distribution of Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits from community pharmacies from **26 January 2024**.

Over 80% of community pharmacies in Wales have confirmed their intention to provide the NHS Wales Lateral Flow Test Service for patients who are eligible for COVID-19 anti-viral treatments.

Supply of LFTs

LFTs will be supplied by NHS Wales and distributed by the NWSSP Health Courier Services team. The initial supply of LFTs to pharmacies will begin w/c 15 January with all participating pharmacies receiving a supply by 25 January 2024, *pharmacies will not need to place an order for this initial supply*. If you do not receive your supply by 26 January please contact NWSSP-HCS using the contact details below.

Based on average monthly dispensing volume, pharmacies will receive either:

- 45x packs of 7 LFTs (lower dispensing volume pharmacies)
- 90 x packs of 7 LFTs (higher volume dispensing pharmacies)

Initial LFT stock will have a two-year shelf life if stored in accordance with manufacturers advice.

Replacement stock can then be ordered from NWSSP-HCS by completing the online reorder form hosted on the NECAF LFT claims page, please note there is a 7 day turnaround for orders placed.

For any queries, you can contact the NWSSP HCS Control Hub via:
Email: NWSSP_HCSControlHub@wales.nhs.uk
Telephone: 0300 123 4092

NECAF

The NECAF LFT claims module will be available from 26 January and should be used to record receipt of LFT stock and supply to patients (or their representatives). A user guide will be available to support staff using the module shortly and available on the CPW website.

Patient communication

Patients who are eligible for COVID-19 anti-viral treatments should keep a supply of LFTs at home.

The current arrangements for ordering LFTs via the online (gov.uk) portal and NHS 119 will close on 31 January 2024. There are currently information messages on both the online and telephone ordering services advising patients of the closure of these portals and the implementation of the pharmacy service in Wales.

From 26 January this will also include a link to the NHS Wales 111 Pharmacy Service Finder, which will enable patients to find pharmacies providing the LFT service and provide information on the service. Information will also be updated on the Welsh Government COVID-19 pages.

Should you wish to withdraw from providing this service in the future, please do so by informing NWSSP (see service specification for detail). This will ensure the pharmacy details are removed from the NHS Wales 111 Pharmacy Service Finder on all information pages.

Supply of LFTs to eligible patients

Patients who are eligible for COVID-19 anti-viral treatments (or their representatives) can be given one or two packs of 7 LFTs per supply. Currently patients receive one pack of 7 tests via the online/NHS119 portals, and it is anticipated that most patients will continue to receive one pack per supply via the pharmacy service. An additional pack can be supplied where there is a particular need, for example where a patient has had to travel a significant distance to the pharmacy.

Patients who are eligible for COVID-19 anti-viral treatments who live in a care home should have a supply of LFTs to enable them to have tests at home for proactive testing and can access this service. Where a care home requires testing for multiple patients/staff in response to an incident, staff should follow the current advice to access appropriate testing https://www.gov.wales/care-homes-and-social-services-coronavirus.

Pharmacy resources

A number of resources have been developed to support contractors in implementing and providing the service, these are available on the CPW website, and also attached (Annex A), and include:

- Service specification
- LFT Implementation Checklist
- Template Standard Operating Procedure
- LFT Frequently Asked Questions
- LFT Staff Briefing

Additional resources, including an LFT Supply Service Record Sheet and the LFT NECAF Screenshots/user guide are available on the CPW website.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this important service.

Yours sincerely

Emma Williams

Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Officer/Dirprwy Prif Swyddog Fferyllol
Welsh Government/Llywodraeth Cymru