

9 December, 2014

Dear General Practitioner/practice manager

**Pharmacy Emergency Repeat Medication Supply Service (PERMSS)**

Following a proposal by the Local Professional Networks (Pharmacy) in the North East, NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Groups have agreed to commission the above service on a pilot basis from **17 December 2014 to 31 March 2015**.

The purpose of the Community Pharmacy Emergency Repeat Medication Supply Service (PERMSS) is to ensure that patients can access an urgent supply of their repeat prescription medicines where they are unable to obtain a prescription before they need to take their next dose. This service will allow the supply of a medicine at NHS expense to patients referred to community pharmacy by NHS 111 and to patients self-presenting in community pharmacy during out of hours (OOH) periods. In both cases the pharmacist must ensure that the patient has immediate need for the medicine and that it is impractical to obtain a prescription without undue delay.

It is anticipated that the scheme will help to free up GP OOH capacity during the winter period. The pilot service will be available

- during all existing pharmacy opening hours that fall within traditional out of hours periods, defined as 18.30-08.00 during weekdays and from 18.30 on Fridays - 08.00 Monday, over weekends
- during all existing pharmacy opening hours that fall on a bank holiday

It will be available in all CCG areas in the North East, with the exception of Cumbria.

Email notifications of any emergency medication supplies within community pharmacy will come into general practice advising of the patient, medication supplied, READ code and any issues/concerns of the pharmacist. Where an email address is not available information will be conveyed by telephone/secure fax. Previous year's activity data suggests that the number of notifications coming into each general practice should be relatively low.

The pilot will be fully evaluated, with both service user and professional feedback sought. The views of general practice will be an essential part of this to ensure that any proposal to recurrently commission the service considers all provider implications.

Further information can be obtained from [NECSU.EnhancedServices@nhs.net](mailto:NECSU.EnhancedServices@nhs.net)