

Dear Care and Support Provider,

Care and Support Provider Update: 27th May 2020

Please note that there is also the Sefton website with a dedicated area for Care Providers, that will be regularly updated with information for the public domain.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/adults/adult-social-care-providers.aspx>.

Thank you to all of you and your staff for your continued efforts and hard work during this challenging time. Please continue to let us know your key issues and support needs, by contacting the Commissioning Support Team

Commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk

IMPORTANT - Mental Capacity Act- DoLs practice under COVID-19

On Wednesday 20th May, we circulated some guidance in relation to testing for Covid-19 and compliance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Please can I ask you to disregard the information we sent you (as an attachment) and replace it with the information below – DoLs practice under COVID. We apologise for any inconvenience that this has caused.

NEW - PPE Portal Trial

The Local Resilience Forum has been advised that there will be a PPE Portal to enable primary and social care providers in England to order critical Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). It will enable access to a procurement portal for PPE for smaller homes that will help them access supplier routes if they are having issues with their usual supply routes. On this new portal, GPs and small social care providers will be able to place an order for critical PPE once a week. **Care homes with 24 beds or fewer** and home care will be invited to register by the portal by the end of the week. More information is in the letter below. The Sefton care homes identified will be reminded about the portal in the daily ring-a-round calls. We want to thank you in advance for working on this. More information about this will also be shared at the next Strategic Care Home call on 2nd June 2020. Please note that emergency PPE can still be obtained by emailing emergencyppe@sefton.gov.uk

Medicines Management update

Management of Proxy access to enable online ordering of medication for residents will be coming soon and we will be in touch with homes as this is rolled out. We are hoping to do a pilot in two practices north and south over the next month to iron out any possible issues before we roll it out across the whole of Sefton.

DoLS practice under Covid-19 Guidance 23/4/20 – DB/JH

Sefton DoLS team continue to follow the Government guidance on MCA and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The government has recently (09.04.2020) produced guidance in relation to the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards during COVID – 19 Pandemic. The following is a summary of this guidance. Link can be accessed at bottom of page.

Summary of key points

- This guidance is only valid during the Pandemic.
- It applies until withdrawn by the Department of Health and Social Care. The content of this guidance should not become the new norm beyond the Pandemic.
- The principles of the MCA and DoLS safeguards still apply.
- Decisions need to be made on an individual rather than a collective basis.
- Where life-saving treatment is being provided, including the treatment of COVID-19, then the person will not be deprived of their liberty providing the treatment is the same as would be given to any person without capacity issues. DoLS will therefore not apply
- It may be necessary to change the usual care and treatment arrangements for somebody who lacks capacity. In most cases this will not constitute a new deprivation of liberty and a DoLS authorisation will not be required.
- Care and treatment should continue to be provided in the person's best interests.
- In scenarios created or influenced by the pandemic decision-makers in hospitals and care homes will need to decide:
 - a) If the new arrangements constitute a deprivation of liberty (most will not)
 - b) if the new measures amount to a new deprivation of liberty, whether a new DoLS authorisation may be required (in many cases this will not be applicable).
- If a new authorisation is required, decision-makers should follow their usual DoLS processes, including those for urgent authorisations. There is a shortened urgent authorisation form which can be used during this emergency (Form Annex B).
- **There will be no change to how the Supervisory body prioritises DoLS applications.**

Face-to-face visits by DoLS assessors will be avoided unless essential. DoLS assessors wherever possible will use previous assessments and remote forms of communication such as Skype.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-looking-after-people-who-lack-mental-capacity?utm_source=a4a3d322-fbe7-424e-bc47-ed85741782a8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Letter to Local Resilience Forums

Thank you for the work you are doing on PPE and for the significant impact your work has had on getting PPE supplies to frontline services during the pandemic.

On Friday 10 April, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced a new online portal to enable primary and social care providers in England to order critical Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This week we are pleased to update you on the roll out plan for the PPE Portal, which should help to significantly reduce the pressure on LRFs in the coming weeks.

On this new portal, GPs and small social care providers will be able to place an order for critical PPE once a week.

The PPE Portal has been tested with the sector and is now being scaled up nationally over the coming weeks. We aim to invite all GPs and small residential social care services in England to use the portal over the next 3 weeks. This will be in a phased approach confirmed at the start of each week. The following regions are due to be invited this week (w/c Tuesday 26 May):

- Cumbria
- Merseyside
- Durham & Darlington
- Cheshire
- South Yorkshire
- Cleveland
- Greater Manchester
- West Midlands
- Lancashire
- Kent

During this phase of the roll-out, **GPs and small residential social care services (care homes with 24 beds or fewer and home care)** in those areas will be invited to register on the portal by the end of this week.

We are focussing on small care providers because our data shows that, although they account for half of all care provision, they are less likely to be registered with wholesalers. It's therefore important that we ensure that they have the option of quickly joining the portal should they need to.

While we are rolling out the portal to certain providers, Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) should continue to provide PPE to those who need it in their region. In the longer term, the portal aims to replace LRFs as the emergency mechanism for ordering PPE for GPs and small social care providers. As the portal rolls out, LRFs should encourage small care providers and GPs who approach them to use their business as usual routes to PPE, turning to the portal for top-up supplies and only turning to the LRF as a very last resort. The National Supply Distribution route is still available in emergency situations.

Throughout this transition period, we are constantly monitoring the PPE we supply through the Portal, LRFs and wholesaler routes to ensure we balance the supply with the demand for each of these routes.

Once invited, users will be able to place an order for PPE once a week.

How providers register:

- Providers will receive an invitation email from DHSC to register on the portal.
- Providers should use the link within the email to access the portal and complete the registration process.
- After registering, providers will receive email confirmation. Providers are asked to check their junk mailbox if the email is not received.

Please note that only providers contacted directly by DHSC will be able to register and so we ask that other emails publicising the service or suggesting that providers try the link are not sent out.

Current order limits

GPs can order:

- **One combined pack**, containing 50 IIR masks, 200 aprons and 400 gloves (200 pairs), **per week** or up to this amount of separate items

Small social care providers can order:

- **One combined pack**, containing 100 IIR masks, 400 aprons and 800 gloves (400 pairs), **per week** or up to this amount of separate items
- These limits may change as demand, the PPE portal, and the wider distribution system for PPE develop over time.
- PPE ordered through the portal should arrive within 48 hours if the order is placed before 1pm. Orders placed after 1pm will be subject to an additional 24-hours.
- Providers should continue to use existing suppliers for other vital equipment.

If providers have problems accessing the site or registering, they should contact nhs-ppe.site-support@ebay.com. Other queries can be raised with customer services at 0800 876 6802. We are partnering with eBay to deliver this service.

Thank you again for all your hard work in getting PPE to those who need it.