

# NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Primary Care Sub Group – 25 November 2020

Primary Care Committee – 9 December 2020

## Pulse Oximetry/Covid Virtual Ward

Lead Executive:	Ian Atkinson, Executive Place Director
Lead Officer:	Jacqui Tuffnell, Head of Commissioning
Lead GP:	Dr David Clitherow, SCE GP

### Purpose:

To update Primary Care Committee in relation to the national requirement to implement a pulse oximetry/covid virtual ward from 30 November 2020.

### Background:

It has been acknowledged that the provision of pulse oximeters could improve outcomes for patients with Covid-19. A national pathway and criteria have been published and this has been considered by the Rotherham Respiratory Steering Board which has also co-opted other members for this review.

From 30 November 2020, patients over 65 or under 65 with certain co-morbidities will be directed to the hot site for an assessment and provision of a pulse oximeter with relevant patient information for reporting their readings to the hot site (in-hours) if they are in 'Amber' range (if red they are advised to go directly to UECC and if green no action required). The service is not 24/7 however there is provision for any patients who do take a reading outside of the normal working hours to contact GP Out of hours.

### Primary Care Delegation Responsibility:

Does this paper relate to Rotherham CCG or delegated business?

Rotherham CCG	X
Delegated	
Both Rotherham CCG and delegated	

Please indicate which area of delegated responsibility this paper covers:

Commissioning, procurement and management of GMS,PMS and APMS contracts including taking contractual action	
Newly designed enhanced services (including DES)	
Local incentive schemes	
Discretionary payments	
Commissioning urgent care for out of area registered patients	
Planning Primary medical care services (PMCS)	
Managing practices with CQC / quality concerns	
Decisions on premise cost directions	

Planning the commissioning of PMCS	
Manage the delegated allocation for commissioning of PMCS	
Assurance to the governing body on the quality and safety of PMCS	

Please indicate which of the Delegated Duties Decisions this paper requires:-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegated Duties – iii – Decisions in relation to the establishment of new GP practices (including branch surgeries) and closures of GP practices.</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegated Duties – iv – Decisions about ‘discretionary payments’.</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegated Duties – v – Decisions about commissioning urgent care (including home visits as required) for out of area registered patients.</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegated Duties – b – The approval of practice mergers.</li> </ul>	N/A

#### Analysis of key issues and of risks

Staffing concerns – at present there are significant issues with identifying staff resources particularly clinical staff, therefore the full pathway cannot be implemented and is reliant on patient monitoring only

Clinical responsibility – there are concerns in relation to patients not reporting results and desaturating

Return of pulse oximeters – the plan is to collect the pulse oximeters rather than rely on patients returning once no longer required

#### Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement:

This is a national requirement with only 3 weeks to implement therefore there has not been an opportunity to engage the patient/public but there has been full stakeholder involvement.

#### Equality Impact:

N/A

#### Financial Implications:

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the costs of an administrative resource for administrating the pathway. There is also a potential that GP out of hours may require some additional resourcing but this will be reviewed as it is unclear what impact this will have on the clinical resources.

Funding for setting up the covid oximetry service has been identified as part of the £150m national covid expansion fund for primary care therefore all additional costs for the service will be identified from this fund.

**Human Resource Implications:**

As identified, all providers have significant staffing issues at present therefore it will not be an easy task to provide staffing.

**Procurement Advice:**

N/A – RCCG is not commissioning this service, we are providing a co-ordinating role between providers.

**Data Protection Impact Assessment:**

Completed

**Approval history:**

N/A

**Recommendations:**

For committee to note the implementation of this national requirement

**Paper is for noting**