



21 March 2024

Dear Pharmacist,

### **Changes to Stoke-on-Trent Community Drug and Alcohol Service prescriptions**

Over the last six years, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT), WithYou and BAC O'Connor (BAC) have worked together to deliver the current Stoke-on-Trent Community Drug and Alcohol Services (CDAS) contract.

As you may be aware, from 1 April 2024, substance misuse treatment and harm reduction services for young people and adults in Stoke-on-Trent will be jointly delivered by WithYou and BAC. The service will continue to be known as CDAS. NSCHT will no longer deliver any services for CDAS, including the prescribing service. From 1 April 2024, WithYou will take over all clinical provision.

### **Prescription arrangements before and after the transition period**

NSCHT will continue to generate substitute prescriptions until 31 March. These prescriptions will extend beyond 31 March and finish at different times in April.

WithYou will start to generate prescriptions for clients previously prescribed by NSCHT in April, to take effect as the NSCHT prescriptions come to an end. These will either be sent to you or be given directly to clients. We will no longer be using a driver but instead Royal Mail's "signed for" special delivery next day service. We ask that your staff remain vigilant for prescriptions arriving in that manner and ensure they are **immediately passed to the pharmacist for checking on receipt**. You will receive smaller sized batches weekly to minimise future changes. If you see any anomalies to the received prescriptions please contact us immediately on the number provided below.

Current prescription data will be passed to WithYou by the end of March.

All ongoing prescriptions generated by WithYou will have our prescribing code, prescribing practice address and contact phone number on the bottom of the prescription. The CDAS/WithYou address and contact details will be as follows:

### **SOT Community Drug and Alcohol Service**

76-82 HOPE STREET  
HANLEY  
STOKE ON TRENT  
ST1 5BY

**Telephone:** 01782 283113

Pharmacy SPOC number: 07864 691 553

## **Prescription queries during and after the transition period**

If there are any queries or issues with NSCHT prescriptions **up to and including 31 March 2024** pharmacies should call NSCHT.

If there are any queries or issues with prescriptions **from 1 April 2024 onwards** pharmacies should call WithYou. After 1 April 2024 WithYou will assume governance and responsibility for the NSCHT prescriptions that extend beyond 1 April 2024.

## **Supervised Consumption and price changes**

We have reviewed the specification and have agreed to increase the payment from £1.50 to £1.75 for Methadone and buprenorphine oral lyophilisate 2mg and 8mg (Espranor®), and Sublingual tablets (buprenorphine, Subutex, Suboxone) will be £3.00. Claiming will be via Pharmoutcomes. Please be aware the previous service claiming will close on 31 March 2024 and you will then need to register all clients as new on the new Supervised Consumption service module from 1 April 2024. If a prescription spans over this period you will need to partially claim on each service within Pharmoutcomes.

The new SLA will be sent out to you shortly for review, and will need signing and returning by the authorised person in your organisation. If you belong to a large multiple then we will communicate with your head office regarding arrangements.

## **Needle Syringe Provision**

This remains unchanged for those currently commissioned. An extension letter will follow.

## **Summary**

We recognise that the transfer of responsibility for delivering all drug and alcohol treatment across Stoke-on-Trent is a major undertaking for everyone concerned. Our main aim is to ensure continuity of care and patient safety.

To that end, we are trying to change as little as possible during the transition period and we will endeavour to make life easier for pharmacists too.

Please bear with us if issues arise and be assured that we will work with you to resolve them. We hope to have a long and fruitful relationship with local pharmacy services.

If you have any queries before 1st April 2024, you can email these to:

[cdaspharmacy@wearewithyou.org.uk](mailto:cdaspharmacy@wearewithyou.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Lorraine Maden  
Lead Clinical Pharmacist  
WithYou