

Community Pharmacy Infrastructure

Facilitation of Remote Consultations

Grant Funding Allocation

October 2020

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1. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant challenges for community pharmacy to ensure the ongoing provision of pharmacy services.

Given the difficulties of face-to-face consultations for many patients including vulnerable/shielded cohorts, a facility for remote consultations would likely be welcomed by the public. This would also help protect staff.

The use of remote consultations for pharmacy services such as Minor Ailments, Pharmacy First Winter Pressures, Advice to Nursing Homes etc, would be a useful alternative to face-to face consultations. This was confirmed in a network wide survey of community pharmacy contractors, and has also been endorsed by Community Pharmacy NI.

It has therefore been determined that funding should be allocated to community pharmacies to put in place appropriate infrastructure to facilitate remote consultations.

2. Grant outline

The purpose of this grant funding allocation is to support the purchase of mobile tablet devices by community pharmacies to facilitate remote consultations with patients as described above.

3. Grant description

In order to support the facilitation of remote consultations between community pharmacies and patients, grant funding of £800 is available for each community pharmacy to purchase a mobile tablet device.

The grant is not intended to cover future costs such as maintenance, upgrades etc. These costs will remain the responsibility of the contractor.

4. Requirements

The mobile tablet device should have the functionality to carry out remote consultations with patients.

If Pharmacies also want to use their device to connect to the secure network, they should purchase a device that is compatible with Microsoft Windows 10 operating system such as Microsoft Surface Pro. Please note that HSCB IT

colleagues have advised that Microsoft Surface Go devices are not suitable for connection to the HSC network.

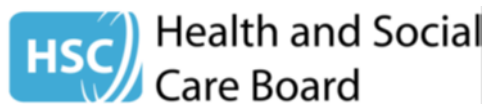
5. Remuneration

Payment of £800 is available to each community pharmacy contractor upon submission of Appendix A – Grant Application Form to the local HSCB office and subsequent approval.

6. Verification and Clawback

The HSCB will be monitoring compliance with these requirements.

Where the HSCB identifies failure to comply, the HSCB reserves the right to recover all, or part of, this grant funding.



Community Pharmacy Infrastructure – Facilitation of Remote Consultations

Declaration & Claim Form

Pharmacy Details

Contractor Number:	
Pharmacy Name:	
Pharmacy Address:	
Pharmacy Phone no:	
I am currently providing remote consultations (Y/N)	

Declaration of Compliance:

I can confirm that a mobile tablet device will be purchased to enable the pharmacy to meet the requirements of the HSCB 'Community Pharmacy Infrastructure – Facilitation of Remote Consultations' Allocation.

I understand that where the HSCB identifies failure to comply, the HSCB reserves the right to recover all, or part of, this grant funding via an adjustment to the pharmacy's BSO payment account.

Signed on behalf of the pharmacy: _____

Position: _____ Date: _____

**This form to be returned to your local Integrated Care Office by
30th October 2020**

<i>Contact Details for Local Integrated Care Offices:</i>				
Belfast	South Eastern	Southern	Northern	Western
12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	Tower Hill Armagh. BT61 9DR	County Hall 182 Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1QB	Gransha Park House 15 Gransha Park Clooney Road Londonderry BT47 6FN
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hscni.net	scni.net	hscni.net	hscni.net	hscni.net
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