

To: All Community Pharmacy Contractors

**Directorate of Integrated Care  
Western Office**

Gransha Park House  
15 Gransha Park  
Clooney Road  
LONDONDERRY  
BT47 6FN

Tel : 028 9536 3375

Fax : 028 9536 1166

Web Site : [www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Colleague

### **SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL REMUNERATION: 2019/20**

The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2019, which came into operation on 9 February 2019, are UK-wide in their extent and provide for a “serious shortage protocol” (SSP) to be issued where there is, or maybe, a serious shortage of a specified medicine.

Amendments have also been made to the Pharmaceutical Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 through the Pharmaceutical Services (Amendments Relating to Serious Shortage Protocols) Regulations (NI) 2019. These regulations came into operation on 31 October 2019 and ensure that any supply under a SSP by a community pharmacy contractor is in line with their Terms of Service.

When a decision has been taken to issue an SSP, the Department of Health will notify the relevant HSC organisations who will advise General Practitioners, GP Locums and community pharmacy contractors. The Business Services Organisation (BSO) will also publish information about each SSP on a dedicated page on its website - [www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm](http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm)

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the HSCB has identified funding for the reimbursement of costs associated with development of processes, training within the pharmacy and the implementation of any SSPs which would be delivered in the remainder of the 19/20 financial year.

A funding model has been developed in conjunction with CPNI as follows:

All contractors will receive a flat fee of £300.

In addition, all contractors will receive a fee based on dispensing volumes (over the last 12 months):

Tier 1 (0 - 48,000 items)	£128.12
Tier 2 (48,000 - 70,000 items)	£256.24
Tier 3 (70,000 - 100,000 items)	£384.36
Tier 4 (100,000 + items)	£512.48

The above funding will be included in the January 2020 payment to your Pharmacy.

The HSCB will be monitoring compliance with the Regulations outlined above. Where the HSCB identifies failure to comply, the HSCB reserves the right to recover part, or all, of this funding.

Yours sincerely,



**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**