

**From Pharmacy Lead, SPPG**  
**Kathryn Turner**



**By email**

All Community Pharmacies

**Strategic Planning and Performance Group**

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Date: 27th March 2023

Dear Colleague,

**Community Pharmacy Care Home Support Service (CPCHSS)**

Thank you to those pharmacies who have participated in the Community Pharmacy Care Home Support Service (CPCHSS), which commenced in December 2021. The purpose of this letter is to out-line the plans for the service in this 2023/24 year and to seek an assurance in relation to service provided in 2022/23.

**Service uptake**

Approximately 392 care homes are signed up to the CPCHSS service with their community pharmacy, which represents 82% of all RQIA registered nursing and residential care homes. Work is continuing to promote the service via RQIA as SPPG would ideally like to see all eligible care homes avail of this valuable input from community pharmacy.

**Care Home Support Service 2023/ 2024**

**(1) Pharmacies previously signed up to the 22/23 service:**

- The service will continue in line with the [CPCHSS Service Specification](#) for the 2023/24 year. It is not necessary to complete a new contract for the 23/24 service.
- The requirement of the service is that each pharmacy should undertake **two care home visits** each financial year, the first of which should be completed before the end of September 2023.
- The attached proforma should be completed detailing the list of care homes for which you are currently providing the service and the dates of the two visits undertaken during 2022/23. Please email your completed proforma to your local office by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

**(2) New Pharmacies who wish to sign up to the 23/24 service:**

- For those pharmacies who have not signed up to the service during 22/23 but who now wish to participate in the 23/24 service, please return by email your completed contract ([Appendix A](#)) to your local office by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- Please note all nursing and residential care homes for who the service will be provided for by the community pharmacy should be listed on the contract.
- A service agreement form ([Appendix B](#)) should be completed for every care home for which the pharmacy is providing the service. A copy of the agreement form should be retained in the pharmacy.
- Please read the service specification carefully and ensure that all relevant staff are trained and competent to deliver this service. Service documentation and previously recorded ECHO training sessions are available to view on the BSO website at the following link: <https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2271.htm>

**Service monitoring and post payment verification**

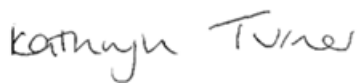
A review of a sample of completed medication audit support tools, shared with SPPG from a selection of community pharmacies, has indicated that community pharmacists are identifying a broad range of medication related issues within care homes. As a result, the community pharmacists have been able to provide advice and support to improve medicines management systems within the care homes

Routine service monitoring will continue and your pharmacy may be asked to submit copies of the audit tools you have completed as part of the visit process.

If you have any queries in relation to this service please contact Breege Brogan [Breege.Brogan@hscni.net](mailto:Breege.Brogan@hscni.net) or Gillian Plant [Gillian.Plant@hscni.net](mailto:Gillian.Plant@hscni.net)

Thank you again for the provision of this important service for patients in nursing and residential care homes.

Yours sincerely,



**Kathryn Turner  
Pharmacy Lead  
Strategic Planning and Performance Group**