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05.03.19

Dear Pharmacist

**Re: Supervised Consumption SLA**

We wrote to you in February 2019 notifying you of our intention to begin prescribing Espranor® and that service users going forward will be offered Espranor oral lyophilisates as an opioid substitution treatment (OST) option. In this letter we notified that due to the transition to Espranor and the change in formulation, alongside ongoing pressures, it led us to review the supervised consumption SLA.

We have now completed this review and consulted with the LPC regarding proposed changes; their statement is included within this letter.

We have made changes to the supervised consumption payments. We have included a separate payment for Espranor that is in line to our Methadone pricing; recognising the reduced time for dissolution that is in line with time required to complete supervised consumption of Methadone. We have also reviewed the costing of our supervised consumption payments for Methadone and brought these closer in line with the level of other areas. We have chosen not to make changes to our Buprenorphine Sublingual tablet supervised consumption payments at this time.

The new prices are as follows:

- Payment per supervision of methadone - £2
- Payment per supervision of buprenorphine oral lyophilisate) - £2
- Payment per supervision of buprenorphine sublingual tablets - £3.50

These changes allow us to continue to offer treatment services in line with NICE guidelines and good clinical practice, whilst also considering affordability and supporting the effective continuity of our treatment service.

As detailed in the SLA, the notice period for any change to provision is three months. The new SLA will go the 1 June 2019. During this 3 month transition, we will continue to process claims as we do currently and supervised consumption for Espranor will be paid at the same level as Buprenorphine during this process.

We have consulted with the LPC regarding these changes. They have reviewed these and issued the following statement.

*“The LPC does not support a reduction in fees, however we have been made aware of the situation and understand that this is the only offer available in the current climate and will leave it to Contractors to decide whether to support the service going forward. We understand that the generic Buprenorphine s/l pricing which triggered this situation will be kept under review. We will continue to work with Swanswell and the Commissioners to look at opportunities for pharmacy provided they are suitably remunerated.”*

Included with this letter is the amended supervised consumption SLA. We very much value the support you have provided and we do hope this will continue. To remain part of the supervised consumption scheme please complete the included signature and payment detail forms within the SLA and send to our financing department.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this plan, please contact your local service on: 0300 303 8200. We also have a number of Espranor placebo packets that we can provide to pharmacies should they wish to see these to test for themselves and can be requested through the number above.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Steele  
Director of Operations  
Cranstoun Group