

Enquiries: Name
☎ 0113 Direct Line
Fax: 0113 Direct fax
Email: firstname.lastname@leedsth.nhs.uk

Date: 11th Aug 2021

**Medicines Management &
Pharmacy Services
Level 01
Gledhow Wing
St James's University Hospital
Beckett Street
Leeds LS9 7TF**

Name
Address

Dear

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the transition process.

We can now confirm that the supply of your transplant immunosuppressant medication has been successfully transferred to our new homecare supply service.

As we have already discussed with you, your immunosuppressant medicines will now be prescribed by a member of the specialist transplant team at St James's Hospital. Polar Speed (our partnered external company) will then process your prescriptions and deliver them to your home or preferred address (such as your place of work) free of charge.

The specialist pharmacy team will now be involved in one of your transplant follow-up clinics alongside the renal consultants and wider renal team. They will be able to provide support and advice to you about your medicines post-transplant and answer any queries you may have about this new process.

Prior to your clinic appointments, you will be contacted via telephone by a member of the pharmacy team to organise the delivery of your next prescription and clarify the amount of immunosuppressant medication you have remaining. They will then confirm if you have had any medication changes since your last appointment to ensure that your clinician has the most up-to-date record of your medicines when reviewing you in clinic.

Whilst your GP will no longer prescribe your immunosuppressant medications, they will still be receiving a copy of your clinic letters to ensure they remain informed of your treatment progress. We have also requested that your immunosuppression medication remains listed on your GP records so that they can check for suitability with your existing medications when prescribing any new ones.

If you wish to speak to a member of the renal pharmacy team, please contact us by email on leedsth-tr.mmpskidneytransplant@nhs.net. Please ensure your email includes your name, date of birth, NHS number (if you know it).

Alternatively, we can also be contacted by phone on 0113 2060964 between the hours of 9am and 4pm. If there is no answer, please leave a voicemail with your

Enquiries: Name
☎ 0113 Direct Line
Fax: 0113 Direct fax
Email: firstname.lastname@leedsth.nhs.uk

name, date of birth, NHS number (if you know it) and your contact number. A member of the team will return your call as soon as possible.

We hope that when this was discussed with you on the phone we were able to answer any questions that you had. Please see below some common questions and answers that may also help you.

Your GP will also receive a copy of this letter so that they are aware of this change in prescribing and can amend your records appropriately.

Why is this happening?

In 2014 NHSE mandated that all prescribing of transplant immunosuppression should move from your GP to the specialist transplant centre. The aim of this is to improve the safety of immunosuppression prescribing, improve the quality of the service provided to transplant patients and to reduce overall healthcare economy costs because of better contract prices available to hospitals compared to community pharmacies. Some of this money is being reinvested in the LTHT transplant service to improve the service that we are able to offer to our patients.

Why change now?

Leeds is one of the last renal transplant centres to implement this piece of work. Consequently, it is becoming increasingly difficult for patients to have their immunosuppression supplied by their GP/Community pharmacy. The post-transplant nurses and staff in renal outpatients have always helped patients when they have had difficulty obtaining immunosuppression. However, as numbers of affected patients continue to increase, the workload is becoming unmanageable and without proper resupply mechanisms in place it is becoming unsafe. Added to this, increasing numbers of telephone clinics where patients are not attending the hospital in person means that having well planned medicines supply services available to all of our patients more important than ever.

Will I need to attend more clinic appointments?

No, the service that we will be implementing has been designed so that a patient will only attend clinics at the same frequency as they would have done before. If these clinic appointments would have otherwise been telephone appointments, they will also remain as telephone appointments.

Will I need to attend St. James Hospital to pick up my medicines?

No, the homecare company that we will be using to supply your immunosuppression will deliver your medicines once we have given them a prescription. They will contact you before the delivery to arrange a time that is convenient for you. There is no charge for the delivery of these medicines.

Will I need to pay for my prescriptions?

If you do not currently pay for your prescriptions due to a medical exemption, then no, you do not need to pay. If you are currently paying for your prescriptions, you will still need to pay for any prescriptions supplied from your community pharmacy, but you will no longer need to pay for immunosuppressant medications provided by the

Enquiries: Name
☎ 0113 Direct Line
Fax: 0113 Direct fax
Email: firstname.lastname@leedsth.nhs.uk

homecare company, as currently there are no mechanisms in place to collect payment.

Dear GP: Please be aware that future prescriptions for immunosuppression medication will be prescribed by the specialist transplant team. Whilst you are not required to prescribe or supply any further immunosuppressant medicines, please ensure that these medicines remain on the care record to support safe decision-making on commencement of any new prescriptions and clear communication with other health care providers. If the patient's community pharmacy currently has any immunosuppression stored for them we will have already been in touch to arrange one last prescription to help use these supplies up and minimise any stock wastage.

Yours sincerely

Name
Job Title

Encl

cc