

## **Treatment of Patients Prescribed Treatment for Substance Dependence – COVID-19**

Treatment for Substance Dependence and Addiction helps people through medication, mental health support and social support. All three elements are needed to help people manage and aid recovery.

The COVID-19 situation is placing a lot of pressure on the health services and GP surgeries and community pharmacies particularly are struggling to operate under the burden. This has led to problems in caring for patients who normally attend pharmacies regularly.

To try and allow for some measure of care for the most at risk and the most vulnerable the Specialist Addiction Services have worked with the pharmacies to continue to provide a minimum pharmacy service.

- The highest risk patients will continue to be prescribed daily and be supervised and will attend and collect medication daily as long as the pharmacy is open.
- Other patients will receive their medication either twice a weekly or a week at a time. No supervision will be provided.

Addiction Services will work with people to help support their physical and mental health and to help with access to medication and care as possible.

Naloxone will be provided as much as possible and ways of getting kits to more people are being explored.

Injecting Equipment Provision will continue to be available and is a priority to reduce harm but people are asked to take additional equipment to reduce risks.

It is hoped that these emergency measures will keep as many people and families safe as possible and keep supplies of medication available for all patients.

If you need to contact the specialist Addiction services the details are below:

South Ayrshire Service **01292 559 800**

[AA-UHB.ClinicalAddictionServices-SouthAyrshire@nhs.net](mailto:AA-UHB.ClinicalAddictionServices-SouthAyrshire@nhs.net)

North Ayrshire Service **01294 476 000**

[AA-UHB.ClinicalAddictionServices-NorthAyrshire@nhs.net](mailto:AA-UHB.ClinicalAddictionServices-NorthAyrshire@nhs.net)

East Ayrshire Service **01563 574 237**

[AA-UHB.ClinicalAddictionServices-EastAyrshire@nhs.net](mailto:AA-UHB.ClinicalAddictionServices-EastAyrshire@nhs.net)

The situation is rapidly changing and updates will be provided whenever possible.