**COVID – Movement of Medication**

**Principles**

* Minimise pressure on the medicines supply chain
* Reduce the risk of infection spread

**When handling PODs and any medication that has been in clinical areas ie wards/ units, wear gloves and/or wash hands immediately afterwards.**

**Returning medication from clinical areas to pharmacy**

**Where a medication is suitable for re-use**:

**Quarantine** any medication that has come back to pharmacy from a ward/ unit where there are confirmed or possible Covid-19 positive cases (ie all wards/ units) **for 72 hours**.

Essentially this means:

* Labelling with the date and time received into pharmacy
* Placing the medication in a closed bag, box or cupboard within pharmacy
* Not handling (other than to put in there) for 72 hours
* If the item is a CD do the same but within the CD cupboard.

**If a medication is not suitable for re-use** destroy on the ward/ unit in accordance with current Trust policy and place in a blue-lidded waste container.

**Transferring medication between wards**

In general terms **medicines can be transferred from a negative COVID-19 (cold/ clean) area** to another negative COVID-19 (cold/ clean) area or a positive cohort (hot/ contaminated) area.

**Patients moving between LYPFT wards** – essentially if it’s considered safe/ appropriate for the patient to move within LYPFT then it is fine to transfer their medication (including PODs which are legally their property) with them.

**For situations outside the above seek IPC advice (and if the medicines have already been sent to a LYPFT ward/ unit wipe down the outer packaging and quarantine in a locked cupboard on the ward/ unit until IPC advice obtained).**

**Patients Own Drugs (PODs)**

* **Quarantine the PODs** in a sealed bag labelled with the date and time received.
* Store in a locked cupboard on the ward **for 72 hours.** NB any CDs must be quarantined within the CD cupboard.
* After the 72 hours quarantine period the PODs may be handled as per normal procedure.
* If it is necessary to handle the PODs ie **to administer in order to avoid missed doses or for medicine reconciliation on admission\***, suggest the PODs are handled within the ward clinic room wearing gloves and/ or washing hands thoroughly afterwards. Wipe down the surface where the PODs were handled and return the PODs to quarantine.
* Where appropriate, patients can take their PODS home as per standard procedure.

\* *Due to COVID pharmacy staff are currently only entering wards/ units to provide medication top-ups and are advised to observe the 72 hour quarantine period before handling PODs. This means that during COVID medicines will be reconciled on admission using sources other than the PODs.*

*It is therefore accepted that if the PODs are the only available ‘2nd information source’ (standard meds-rec practice) pharmacy staff should document that only 1 source has been used with a note referencing ‘due to COVID BCP’ (Business Continuity Plan)*

*If in a pharmacy staff member’s professional opinion there is a need to check the PODs on admission then:*

* + *This should be done on the ward (to minimise risk of infection spread do not bring patients property into the pharmacy)*
  + *Staff follow the above advice regarding handling PODs*