

## RE: Accessing PPE – an update for GP practices in NHS Scotland

Dear Colleague

As Director of NHS National Services Scotland National Procurement, I wanted to personally reach out to all GP practices in Scotland to provide you with an update on how we are working in partnership with your Health Boards, so that you have access to vital PPE, to meet your needs.

You'll be aware that in late March/ early April, through joint agreement with Scottish Government and Health Boards, we (National Procurement) lead the distribution and direct-delivery of 6 – 8 weeks of PPE supply, to GP practices right across Scotland.

This effort, amongst many, has been a result of partnership working with Health Boards. We all meet twice weekly, to ensure that together, we are understanding, addressing, and delivering to meet PPE needs for all areas of healthcare.

On this basis, in agreement with health board partners, I wanted to take an opportunity to share some planned next steps for GP practices, to continue our efforts. As follows:

- National Procurement has agreed with Health Boards across Scotland to deliver an additional supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for onward distribution (by boards) to all GP surgeries.
- Mechanisms for the management of onward distribution will be managed by each individual Health Board.
- Health Boards will receive PPE equipment that includes aprons, masks, visors and gloves and will prepare this for onward delivery to individual practices from 14<sup>th</sup> May onwards.

Allocation to Health Boards will be based on the size and number of surgeries in each Health Board.

### Maintaining Stocks

**To help support health and social care in Scotland in the overall management of PPE supply, we encourage GP practices to actively participate in any surveys for stock information, when requested from their local boards.** This will ensure we maintain a good awareness of the stock position and allocate any additional stock on the basis of clinical need.

In the event that your practice begins to run short of PPE supplies, you should make contact through your local Health Board. Each board will provide a contact point.

### FFP3 fit and supply

Where FFP has been identified as a requirement this can be done through Health Boards existing routes for ordering AGP PPE.

## **Eyewear Supply**

We have included in this email, a communication from NHSS in relation to disposable eyewear provided via the UK Pandemic Stock pile. The correspondence requires that these products should now not be used in a Covid19 setting. Alternative products have been provided for distribution by your HBs.

In addition, relating to the supply of visors, we have [included here](#), the infection prevention and control guidance, (which includes the use of visors).

## **Moving forward:**

We will continue to monitor this and all of our efforts to ensure PPE is reaching all areas of Scotland's health and social care. I am confident that through partnership working across Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships (this includes regular meetings with representatives from Primary Care Clinical Leads in Scotland), we will continue to do everything possible to address concerns or issues. Therefore, please do keep feeding back via local mechanisms in your area.

Thank you for all that you do.

**Gordon Beattie**

**Director of National Procurement**

**NHS National Services Scotland.**