

Medicine Management



Somerset

Clinical Commissioning Group



Listening to local people
Shaping health services in Somerset

December 2020 – Medicine management

Who has given us feedback ?

A South West regional survey into the NHS Covid-19 response took place in Summer 2020 and saw over 6000 responses including 700 from Somerset. We were told that we need to ensure there is an adequate stock of prescription medicines especially for people with long term conditions.

What has been done to improve this?

We work collaboratively with community pharmacy, primary and secondary care to ensure medication is prescribed in a safe and appropriate manner.

Maintaining normal prescription durations ensures this runs smoothly in most instances. It is not to primary or secondary care's advantage to run out of stock so both have good systems and processes in place to maintain adequate stock levels.

Our advice to primary care has been to not increase prescription durations to protect the supply chain. Where there have been shortages, we have worked with suppliers to make sure stock allocations have been sent as soon as they have been available. We also have a local out of stock guidance document for pharmacy and primary care to use for escalating an out of stock item.

Mechanisms exist to ensure supply is maintained or a clinically safe alternative is available.