Dear Colleagues,

In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation NHS Grampian, in conjunction with the 5 other North of Scotland Boards, have produced a Patient Group Direction (PGD) to support community pharmacists in the supply of paracetamol to self-isolating individuals who have fever associated with Coronavirus (COVID-19).

This PGD has been produced in response to the current supply issues with ‘P’ and ‘GSL’ paracetamol. It will allow you to issue patients with paracetamol from a Prescription Only Medicine ‘POM’ pack which is not allowable under the Minor Ailments Service (MAS).

Where a patient is eligible for MAS and the community pharmacy has an appropriate ‘P’ medicine available it would be expected that you would supply this to the patient under the current MAS regulations, considering all formulations that may be available.

You should also consider the balance of selling paracetamol to non-symptomatic patients for stock holding versus conserving supplies for those patients at need of treatment for symptomatic management of fever.

Where either:
- The patient is not eligible for MAS (we are aware that MAS eligibility is changing imminently)
- No ‘P’, or GSL paracetamol medication is available (MAS is not an option)

The attached PGD can be used to make the supply.

Please note the inclusion criteria for the PGD clearly states that this is for self-isolating patients who have fever associated with COVID-19. We would acknowledge that the pharmacist will have to use their professional judgement in making this assessment as these patients will be self-isolating and therefore a representative will be requesting/collecting medication on their behalf.

Please ensure all pharmacists/locums read and sign up to this PGD and return completed form (Appendix 1) to nhsg.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.net.

To ensure timely and correct payment for the supply of paracetamol from this PGD the following administrative steps must be taken - all prescriptions should be written on a UCF CP4 under the ‘Unscheduled Care’ service.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Thomson
Principal Pharmacist Medicines Management