



Health and Social  
Care Board

To: Community Pharmacy Contractors

**Directorate of Integrated Care  
Western Office**

Gransha Park House  
15 Gransha Park  
Clooney Road  
LONDONDERRY  
BT47 6FN

Tel : 028 9536 3375

Fax : 028 9536 1166

Web Site : [www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Colleague

### **OPENING – CLOSING TIMES**

With the initial COVID surge in mid-March, there was a need to restrict access to pharmacies to allow sufficient time for staff rests, restocking and cleaning. At that time, the public was advised that pharmacies would not be open for dispensing until 10am and would have closure from 1pm to 2pm.

Given that the surge in demand has diminished somewhat, and community pharmacy services have been stabilised over the past few weeks, it now seems appropriate to revise the current arrangements.

Therefore, in agreement with CPNI, from 11th May, pharmacies can return to normal opening hours with the exception that the lunchtime closure of one hour for dispensing services to the general public will remain. It is expected that this will be generally 1 to 2pm for most pharmacies. HSCB will communicate this change through social media.

Once again I would like to restate my appreciation of community pharmacy teams and trust that the maintenance of a dedicated one hour closure will continue to support the services that they provide.

Yours sincerely,

**Joe Brogan**

**Assistant Director of Integrated Care  
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**