

Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution:	As Appendix 1
From:	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans
Date:	18 March 2020
Reference:	CEM/CPhA/2020/16a
Category:	Class 1: Immediate Action
Title:	Anti-inflammatory medications – Covid-19
For Action by:	<p>General Practitioners – Ensure a copy is held on your locum file – Action as below.</p> <p>Community Pharmacies – Action as below.</p> <p>Dental Practices – Action as below.</p> <p>Hospital pharmacies – Action as below.</p> <p>Medical Directors - Action as below.</p> <p>Nurse Directors – Action as below.</p> <p>Chief Pharmacists - Action as below.</p> <p>HB Prescribing Advisers – Action as below.</p> <p>Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales – Action as below.</p>
For Information:	See Annex 1 – Distribution List
What is this about:	Full details are set out below.
Why has it been sent:	For your information, action and to pass on to colleagues.

Issue:

Advice on the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) in relation to Covid-19.

Ensure all clinical staff are aware of the advice contained in the attached PDF file.

For patients, who have confirmed Covid-19 or believe they have Covid-19, that they use paracetamol in preference to NSAIDs.

Those currently on NSAIDs for other medical reasons (e.g. arthritis) should not stop them.
Full details of the drug alert are included in the attached PDF file.

Appendix 1

To: Chief Executives of Health Boards and NHS Trusts
Medical Directors of Health Boards
Nurse Directors Health Boards
Directors of Public Health
Hospital Principals and Chief Pharmacists to action as per alert
NHS Direct

To: **NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:**

General Practitioners – Ensure a copy is held on your locum file.

Community Pharmacies.

Dental Practices.

HB Prescribing Advisers.

Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales.

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To:

All NHS Wales clinical staff

Our Ref: AE/qA1422915

18 March 2020

Dear, Colleagues

Anti-inflammatory medications

There has been concern about the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) in relation to Covid-19 following a statement by the French Health Minister (a clinician) advising against the use of ibuprofen.

This statement was based on provisional information reported from French care settings which UK authorities have not seen and is, to date, unpublished. There is no current literature on the impact of NSAIDs use in Covid-19.

There appears to be some evidence for SARS 1 that there may be an adverse impact on pneumonia. There is also some literature suggesting NSAIDs may increase complications from simple acute respiratory infections or slow recovery. However the evidence is not conclusive overall.

There appears to be no evidence that NSAIDs increase the chance of acquiring Covid-19. In view of the current lack of clarity the Committee of Human Medicines (an advisory body of MHRA) and NICE have been asked to review the evidence. It is therefore suggested that, in the interim, for patients, who have confirmed Covid-19 or believe they have Covid-19, that they use paracetamol in preference to NSAIDs.

Those currently on NSAIDs for other medical reasons (e.g. arthritis) should not stop them.

This position will be kept under constant review and we will inform you of any changes to the above advice.

Yours sincerely



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