

23 March 2020

Dear Stakeholder,

The Commission appoints Designated Medical Practitioners who undertake visits to patients detained under the MHC&T 2003 to check that certain treatments are required and properly authorised.

These visits are usually face-to-face with patients. These are now being undertaken by phone or other technology wherever possible.

When the provisions of the Emergency Coronavirus Bill are enacted and triggered these will still require that ECT and nasogastric feeding will require DMP authorisation. DMPs will continue to provide these checks through phone calls or other technology (or a visit if absolutely necessary and if this can be safe for all concerned).

The legal requirement for the RMO to seek formal authorisation regarding medications beyond 2 months and alterations to extant medication covered by T3bs needing new DMP authorisation will be suspended, so long as the RMO has requested a DMP authorisation and it would cause unreasonable delay to wait for the DMP.

We request that RMOs continue to make requests of the Mental Welfare Commission for DMPs as they do currently by phone on **0131 313 8777** or via email at mwc.2ndopinionrequests@nhs.net. Where possible, please send a completed appendix E at the outset to make the process as efficient as possible.

DMPs are already aware of the new arrangements. Please cascade to clinicians and managers in your service. If you have questions in relation to these measures, please email the Commission at mwc.enquiries@nhs.net

Thank you.

Dr Arun Chopra
Medical Director

