

URGENT NOTICE TO ALL OUR PATIENTS AND PHARMACY USERS

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

We are sorry to advise that our landlord, Community Health Partnerships or “CHP”, which is wholly owned by the Department of Health and exists to support the NHS has told the doctors that they are seriously considering closing down your pharmacy at the medical centre in the near future or they may seek a court injunction to stop the pharmacy providing services to patients. This is despite another branch of the NHS stating that community pharmacies in Liskeard town centre were not sufficiently accessible as to provide a reasonable choice of pharmaceutical provider and that the pharmacy “would confer a significant benefit on local people”. Our landlord has told us that they are doing this “to protect the Secretary of State [for Health, Jeremy Hunt MP] our Shareholder”.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

At present our lease prohibits the operation of a retail pharmacy and we have been in discussions with our landlord for nearly 2 years to have this changed, but they are refusing to talk about this unless we close the pharmacy down. Despite our best efforts, the CHP team have refused to meet to discuss this, even after being assured that any reasonable requirements will be met by the Health Centre team. We are now in the position where one part of the NHS says the pharmacy would be a significant benefit to patients while a company owned by the Department of Health is trying to close it down.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT THIS?

The practice now finds itself in a terrible position as we are being threatened with a court injunction by one part of the NHS, whereas another part says that the pharmacy should be allowed to open. We are seeking legal advice, but the outcome of this is very uncertain.

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

We are still taking legal advice, but are being put in a terrible position by one part of the NHS. Our overriding priority is to our patients and we simply cannot ethically refuse to give you medicines, but our landlord may get a court order that means that the pharmacy must not do this. We would hope that no court would allow this to happen and that our landlord will choose to work with us rather than against the practice and patients.

WHAT CAN PATIENTS DO?

Our patients have been incredibly supportive of the new pharmacy. We cannot ask you to do anything but if you wish to contact our landlord to express your opinion then you can contact;

Community Health Partnerships Team

David Evans

d.evans@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk

Regional Property Director, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Sir Sam Everington OBE

s.everington@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk

Non-executive director, Skipton house, 80 london Road, London, SE1 6LH

Bernadette Conroy b.conroy@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Non-executive director, Skipton house, 80 London road, London SE1 6LH

Nigel Beer n.beer@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Non-executive director, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Ben Masterson b.masterson@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Non-executive director, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Dr Sue O'Connell s.oconnell@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Chief Executive, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Mark Day m.day@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Chief operating officer, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Martin Rooney m.rooney@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Executive director, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Gillian Hunt g.hunt@communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk
Chief finance officer, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

Jeremy Hunt MP huntj@parliament.uk
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Parliamentary House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 6813

Constituency - SW Surrey Conservative Association, 2 Royal Parade, Tilford Road, Hindhead, GU26
6TD Tel: 01428 609416 Fax: 01428 607498

Departmental - Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS Tel: 020
7210 4850 Email: mb-sofs@dh.gsi.gov.uk

I AM AN ORIGINAL DISPENSING PATIENT – AM I AFFECTED?

NO. Amazingly we are allowed to provide pharmaceutical services (ie dispensing) to our original dispensing patients, but our lease does not allow us to operate a “normal” pharmacy that serves everyone.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION

We will try our very best to keep you updated on what is happening and post updates on our website and on the surgery notice board. We hope that you will understand the incredibly difficult position we are being put in and that we are putting the needs of patients above everything else, but if the court orders us to stop providing this service then we would be put in an even more difficult position.