



16 Dec 20

Dear Practice Manager

**Medequip Resilience During COVID-19: Actions with Commissioners**

This is an urgent appeal by Medequip, the company that provides community equipment in Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire Council and NHS BSW CCG, for the return of beds and other items of equipment loaned through the Integrated Community Equipment Support Service **if they are no longer required for use by the patient.**

The current COVID19 pandemic has impacted the production of foam, which adversely affects our ability to procure new mattresses and cushions. In addition to this we have also seen a significant challenge with products manufactured from steel.

Due to the speed in which patients are being discharged from hospital as well as the increase in the community equipment provision to prevent admission, it is extremely important that we recycle and reuse as much of this equipment as we can.

Over the past two months, Medequip teams working in the area have noticed a drop in returns of vital community equipment at the end of the expected loan period. It is understandable that consumers may have concerns about contact with people from outside their household under social distancing rules, but it's also vital that these items continue to be returned so patients can be discharged from local hospitals, to be cared for safely in their own homes.

Medequip understands consumers' concerns and our teams are using approved infection control procedures and enhanced PPE to protect those whose homes staff visit, as well as themselves.

Please help facilitate more NHS patient discharges and free up more vital bed spaces. If you are aware of patients who no longer need the equipment they have on loan, please advise them to contact Medequip so the equipment can be collected and recycled.

**We have enclosed posters for you to display within your Practice, which provide contact details for the Medequip depot in Calne. Following contact, the Medequip team will arrange a FREE collection of these items from the patient's place of residence. Alternatively, equipment can also be returned to the depot.**

We appreciate your support in this crucial initiative to continue to provide much needed equipment to patients across Wiltshire.



Michaela Harris  
General Manager – South West  
On behalf of Medequip Assistive Technology