



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Jo Churchill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention,
Public Health and Primary Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

Your Ref: TG/EC2017

PO-1228529

Elliot Colburn MP

By email to: elliott.colburn.mp@parliament.uk

24 August 2020

Dear Elliot,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. Owing to the unprecedented situation in which we find ourselves, I am currently unable to respond to every individual letter personally.

This is not what I would wish; however, in order to prevent further delay to you, I have asked an official to reply on my behalf and this is enclosed.

I hope the enclosed reply is helpful.

JO CHURCHILL



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Marie Turner
Head of Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

Your Ref: TG/EC2017

PO-1228529

Elliot Colburn MP

By email to: elliott.colburn.mp@parliament.uk

24 August 2020

Dear Mr Colburn,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 May and 2 August on behalf of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Suzanne Rastrick, the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer (CAHPO) for England, is providing clinical leadership for increasing rehabilitation capacity and ensuring continued improvements to the clinical approach to rehabilitation for community health. NHS England and NHS Improvement is working closely with local areas to discuss capacity plans for winter and for rehabilitation.

The UK CAHPOs have released a joint statement about rehabilitation during and after COVID-19. It outlines the importance of supporting all groups that have been adversely affected by COVID-19 and embracing new ways of working. A new online, on-demand service, Your COVID Recovery, is being rolled out, which will provide rehabilitation services from home for those who have survived COVID-19 but still require support. Patients who have suffered from the virus, in hospital or at home, will have access to a consultation with their local rehabilitation team, usually comprising physiotherapists, nurses and mental health specialists. Following this initial assessment, those who need it will be offered a personalised package of online-based aftercare lasting up to 12 weeks, available later this summer.

Recruitment and retention are key elements of discussions with local areas. Guidance was issued to support primary care and community health services in meeting the immediate and longer-term care needs of patients discharged following an acute episode of COVID-19. This guidance can be found at www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus by searching for 'after-care needs of inpatients recovering from COVID-19'. The Your COVID Recovery service offers those who need it a personalised package of online-based aftercare, suited to their needs.

The need for rehabilitation and additional capacity required as a result of COVID-19 is a central consideration in regional planning. Guidance has been published, such as the NHS RightCare rehabilitation toolkit that can be found at www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare by searching for 'community rehabilitation toolkit'.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Turner', with a stylized, cursive script.

MARIE TURNER