



Eastern Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Family Physicians, Eastern Health

FROM: Management Team, Community Support Program

RE: Referrals from Community Based Providers

DATE: February 17, 2021

Over the past few days we have been receiving an increase in the requests/referrals for maintenance of injections for individuals who have been receiving this service through their family physician.

We are commonly receiving requests for injections that have been provided by other community providers.

One of the most common requests that we are receiving is for Vitamin B12 injections. We encourage you to consider if your patient is suitable to take Vitamin B12 tablets orally. Recent literature shows that oral B12 to be comparable with injectable B12. Barring this, other options may need to be considered such as administration by a pharmacy or private nursing service (which will have a fee for the patient) or teaching your patient to self-administer (it can be administered subcutaneously).

We understand that we are all again experiencing very challenging times with the recent COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, however, the Community Support Program does not have the capacity to accept these referrals.

You will need to make plans with your patients on how they will continue to receive services that you have been regularly providing.

We are all in this together. The Community Support Program will continue to be available during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide services, however, we are not able to assume services that other health care providers have been routinely providing.

