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ASSOCIATION OF
AMBULANCE
CHIEF EXECUTIVES

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JOINT STATEMENT FROM AACE & TSA – PROVISION OF ADEQUATE PPE SUPPLIES

More than two million people in the UK (mostly elderly and vulnerable) have a telecare pendant alarm, or sensor alerts, to call for assistance via call monitoring centres managed by either local or national Telecare Providers (TCPs). Some TCPs have community response teams who can go out to their service users who have fallen, to assess and get them off the floor if uninjured. There are also Installation teams and engineers who support these services.

These teams play a significant role in not only protecting the vulnerable, but also reducing demand on the ambulance 999 service. These response teams urgently require PPE in order to continue to attend such calls during the COVID19 pandemic. TCPs are not registered with Care and Health Regulators, such as CQC and Care Inspectorate's and some are struggling to obtain any guidance or PPE supplies through NHS Supply Chain or the Local Authority hubs. The NHSE Infection Prevention & Control COVID cell have therefore advised that their needs should be coordinated through the relevant Sustainability & Transformation Partnerships (STP) and Integrated Care System (ICS) and that lack of Regulator registration, should not be a barrier to supply.

It is **really** important for ambulance trusts that the TCP teams can continue to safely respond to and support their service users, so that they are not required to send ambulance resources to non-injured fallers. The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) and TSA, as representative bodies for NHS ambulance trusts and TCPs respectively, would therefore appreciate if STP/ICS leads for coordinating PPE supplies can liaise with TCPs who contact them, to provide them with the relevant IP&C guidance and appropriate PPE supplies.

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