



Daily Update

Thursday 25th February 2021

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: pharmacy staff C-19 vaccination; re-classifying special containers; provisionally registered pharmacists update; reporting lateral flow test results; HEE to repeat workforce survey.

Pharmacy staff: still not had your first C-19 vac?

Make this week the week you protect yourself and your patients.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are reminding health and care workers, including community pharmacy staff, that until the end of this week, they can book a vaccination appointment via [the National Booking Service](#).

To ensure no frontline workers who want to be vaccinated are left behind, the NHS has opened the [National Booking Service](#) to allow eligible staff to book directly at a Vaccination Centre or pharmacy-led site. Using the National Booking Service is quick and simple. You can do it online at nhs.uk/CovidVaccination, or by calling 119 if you can't access the internet.

The ability to book directly is only expected to remain open until 28th February, so if you haven't had your vital first dose yet, make this week the week you make your appointment.

[Find out more about pharmacy staff vaccination](#)

Over 100 products re-classified as special containers since May 2020

Following representations from PSNC, over **100** products have now been re-classified as special containers since May 2020. Visit our [Notice of changes to special container status of products page](#) to view the latest changes to special container status.

PSNC is awaiting responses from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for over **600** other products that we believe meet the Drug Tariff criteria for special containers which have not been annotated accordingly. PSNC is also in contact with several manufacturers to gather information in support of the applications for special container status.

[Read more about the re-classifications](#)

Provisionally registered pharmacists and the 2021 GPhC pre-registration assessment

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has been encouraging provisionally registered pharmacists/pre-registration candidates to consider carefully whether they are fit or ready to sit the GPhC assessment in March this year, or whether they should wait and give themselves more time to prepare. It will be in candidates' best interests that they make the right decision and pass at the first attempt.

Community pharmacy contractors are advised to be familiar with the issues, in particular:

- The support expected from employers, which is [set out in GPhC guidance](#) and includes, for example, identifying the amount and nature of study time needed by a candidate; and
- An individual who fails the assessment (once notified) will not be eligible to remain on the GPhC register.

[Further information on the issues to be aware of](#)

Reporting COVID-19 lateral flow test results – AI trial

NHS Digital is trialling new artificial intelligence (AI) software to read test results of lateral flow devices (LFDs), which will make reporting results quicker, easier to understand and more accurate.

Primary care staff, including pharmacy team members, reporting their test results will be able to take part in this trial from the end of next week, where they are reporting using a smartphone or tablet device. The trial includes taking a picture of the test at the end of the normal process to report results.

[Find out more about the trial and reporting lateral flow test results](#)

HEE to repeat community pharmacy workforce survey

In 2017, Health Education England (HEE) commissioned the first Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey across England to better understand the numbers and skill mix in the community pharmacy workforce and inform planning and future investment in education.

HEE is repeating this survey in 2021 and is working towards a yearly data collection from 2022. This process is set to gather a meaningful dataset to inform the future planning and funding in relation to the development of the community pharmacy workforce across the NHS in England. It will also inform the deliverables of the NHS People Plan.

[Learn more about the survey](#)

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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