



Daily Update

Wednesday 24th 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: NHS prescription charge to increase; advice for pharmacies planning to provide C-19 vacs; pharmacy staff invited to join PPE panel; final printed Drug Tariff in March.

Prescription charge rises to £9.35 from 1 April

In England, the NHS prescription charge will increase to £9.35 per prescription item from 1st April 2021.

Amendments to the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations have been laid before Parliament which will introduce changes for both the NHS prescription charge and prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs).

The price of a three-month PPC will become £30.25 (an increase of 60 pence) and a 12-month PPC will be £108.10 (an increase of £2.20). PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months, or 12 or more items in a year.

[Read more, including a statement from PSNC's CEO](#)

Advice published for pharmacies planning to provide C-19 vacs

The national pharmacy bodies have jointly issued advice for community pharmacies planning to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, after a new designation process for community pharmacies in England opened last week.

The document – prepared by AIM, the CCA, NPA, PSNC and the RPS – contains questions contractors should ask themselves before applying to the NHS to provide a vaccination service. For example, what is the local parking situation for an anticipated increase in footfall, is there adequate room in current fridges and is insurance in place?

[View the joint guidance](#)

DHSC seeking Pharmacy Techs and dispensing staff to join PPE panel

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is continuing its work to get feedback from the users of COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) provided via the Government's PPE portal.

DHSC has already established a PPE engagement panel to gather feedback from pharmacy contractors and their teams. The purpose of the panel is to give end user customers the opportunity to speak on behalf of their peers about their experiences of COVID-19 PPE supplied by DHSC, by providing a frontline perspective. This feedback is then used by DHSC to inform central analysis and improvement plans.

DHSC is particularly interested in receiving expressions of interest to join the panel from Pharmacy Technicians or dispensing staff.

[Learn more and find out how to join](#)

Contractor Notice: Final printed Drug Tariff in March 2021

Pharmacy contractors are reminded that the **Drug Tariff for March 2021 (published today) will be the final printed version** distributed by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). From April 2021, pharmacy contractors will only be able to access the Drug Tariff [online](#). The move to make the Drug Tariff paperless forms part of NHSBSA's commitment to digital transformation and the NHS Long Term Plan.

Pharmacy contractors that have a registered email address with the NHSBSA will continue to receive a link to the PDF copy of the Drug Tariff each month. Should any issues arise in receiving this link, pharmacy teams can contact NHSBSA via nhsbsa.drugtariff@nhs.net. This contact can also be used by pharmacy teams to request addition of an email address to the circulation list.

[Find out more about this change](#)

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