



Daily Update

Thursday 18th 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: collaborative working on C-19 vacs; new Medicines and Medical Devices Act; inhaler recycling pilot in Leicestershire & Rutland; MHRA drug safety update.

COVID-19 vacs: Collaborative working between PCN and community pharmacy sites

In the nation's critically important race to get as many eligible patients vaccinated against COVID-19 as possible, local collaboration and team working between all COVID-19 vaccination sites is now of the highest priority. One good example comes from Bishop Auckland in County Durham.

A collaborative model has been developed between the pharmacy site, which is part of the Knights Pharmacy group, and the general practices in Bishop Auckland that are running the Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccination site. By working together, the two sites have been able to maximise the number of clinically extremely vulnerable patients that could be vaccinated.

[Read more about this collaboration](#)

New Medicines and Medical Devices Act 2021

Last week the [Medicines and Medical Devices Bill](#) received royal assent and became law. The new Act will enable the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to implement a number of policies to amend the existing regulatory frameworks, although generally regulations under the Act must first be introduced.

The potential changes include:

- **Supporting the availability of medicines:** enabling hub and spoke arrangements between different legal entities, to 'support wider use of automation to bring increased efficiencies'; requiring manufacturers to provide electronic patient information leaflets; and increasing the professions able to prescribe and supply certain medicines.
- **Protecting the public:** developing a UK medicines verification system; introducing a national registration scheme for online sellers of medicines; and facilitating supply of medicines and medical devices during non-pandemic public health emergencies.

[Find out more about the new Act](#)

Leicestershire and Rutland pharmacies support innovative inhaler recycling pilot

Community pharmacies in Leicestershire and Rutland are participating in a unique pilot, developed and funded by Chiesi Limited, to help their patients to easily dispose of and recycle any type and brand of inhalers through the post, supporting a more sustainable way of living for people with respiratory illnesses. The Leicestershire Take AIR (Take Action for Inhaler Recycling) pilot is supported by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Leicestershire and Rutland LPC and it will run for 12 months, after which it will be evaluated.

[Learn more about the pilot](#)

MHRA Drug Safety Update February 2021

A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update (Vol 14 Issue 7 February 2021) has been published and includes articles on: further restrictions due to risk of serious liver injury with Ulipristal acetate 5mg (Esmya); reports of severe respiratory depression relating to Pregabalin (Lyrica); and updates on COVID-19 vaccines and medicines.

[See the latest MHRA Drug Safety Update](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. How do I provide the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) if I haven't got access to an IT system to make my clinical records?

The DMS service requirements say appropriate records must be made in the PMR or other suitable system, which could include PharmOutcomes, other IT systems or paper records. Additionally, [summary information](#) needs to be reported to the [NHSBSA](#) as part of the contractor's claim via the [MYS portal](#). As with other MYS claims, it will be possible for the data to be manually inputted into MYS in order to make the claim.

A DMS worksheet is available from our [main DMS webpage](#) which can be used to make clinical records, including the necessary information which needs to be reported to the NHSBSA. Using this worksheet and annotating the patient's PMR, so all staff know they have had a DMS referral, will allow the service to be provided in line with the contractual requirements, where IT system functionality to make such records is not available to the pharmacy.

Further queries have been answered on our [Discharge Medicines Service FAQs page](#).

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

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