



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 7th May 2020

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

In today's update: guidance on CD regulations for pandemic supply; wholesaler order cut-off timings; bank holiday social media resources

RPS Guidance on new CD Regulations for Pandemic Supply

Three changes to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (MDRs) came into force last week, which provide Ministers with emergency powers for the supply of controlled drugs (CDs). The purpose of the changes is to ensure community pharmacies can continue to supply patients with essential medicines at critical times during a pandemic, such as the COVID-19 outbreak. The regulations are enabling so may be used only if 'activated' or 'switched on' by Ministers and apply in very limited circumstances.

Today, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) issued [guidance for pharmacists on the legislation and associated professional practice considerations](#). The guidance was developed in consultation with the pharmacy sector including PSNC.

The three changes to the MDRs set out in the [Misuse of Drugs \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendments Relating to the Supply of Controlled Drugs During a Pandemic etc.\) Regulations 2020](#) are:

1. Emergency supply of a CD without a prescription
2. Emergency supply of a CD against a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP)
3. Emergency change to a CD instalment direction with the agreement of the prescriber

[Learn more here](#)

Wholesaler Bank Holiday Ordering

With the May Bank Holidays approaching, full-line wholesalers have provided information regarding their delivery and order cut-off points. As is usual practice, there are no deliveries scheduled for the early May Bank Holiday, so pharmacy teams are encouraged to [check the wholesaler order cut-off timings for Thursday 7th May](#) for their next scheduled deliveries.

Social Media Resources to Promote Pharmacy Opening

Community pharmacy teams have been working tirelessly as the COVID-19 outbreak has developed, including opening tomorrow on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May). PSNC has collated some graphics and resources for LPCs and contractors to use on social media if they would like to demonstrate the work pharmacies are doing at this time.

PSNC

resources

For your social media accounts, we have drafted some [template tweets](#) to promote pharmacy opening hours during the May Bank Holiday. We have also developed a series of graphics which cover some key COVID-19 messaging and are available for you to download via this [shared Dropbox account](#). These have been created so that LPCs or pharmacies can add their own branding to the graphics or tweak the messaging if they wish.

NHSE&I

resources

NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has created [this useful graphic about pharmacy bank holiday hours](#) and another [graphic to encourage patients to order repeat prescriptions from home](#), which LPCs and contractors may like to use online.

For additional resources to promote pharmacy, please visit our [COVID-19 media page](#).

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on an almost daily basis. Recent additions include:

Q. How will I claim for opening on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8 May) between 2 and 5pm?

Claims for payment for this service must be made between 25 May 2020 and 22 June 2020 via the Manage Your Service (MYS) platform provided by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

Q. How can community pharmacy contractors help to support and amplify PSNC's voice?

The pharmacy bodies are uniting around the brand #pharmacyheroes and are encouraging contractors and LPCs to join us in using this hashtag to promote the great work being undertaken by pharmacy teams. Further information on this joint work is available via the PSNC website where there are some [template tweets](#) and [graphics](#) available to use, which can be personalised to apply to your local area/LPC. You can also find out more about submitting case studies via the joint hub: www.nhsfrontline.com

Q. Has the possibility of introducing a pharmacy COVID-19 immunisation programme been broached yet in talks with DHSC?

A vaccine for the COVID-19 coronavirus has yet to be determined. Once such a vaccine exists and is available in sufficient quantities, there may be an opportunity for community pharmacies to be one of the vaccine providers.

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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