



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 28th 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: further £50m injection to ease cashflow challenges; and NHS Test and Trace.

PSNC secures further £50m injection to ease cashflow challenges

Ministers have agreed to inject a further £50m of advance funding into community pharmacies at the end of May.

This follows ongoing representations from PSNC about the cashflow crisis facing many community pharmacy contractors and businesses as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is working to calculate payments with the intention that the extra £50 million can be paid at the same time as the 1st June payment.

The payment follows the £300m in advance payments already made to contractors this year in recognition of COVID-19 related cashflow challenges, and it comes as the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has also increased medicine reimbursement prices by £15m in June.

Alongside the ongoing discussions about cashflow and medicines margin and procurement prices, PSNC is continuing to highlight to the NHS and HM Government the urgent need for extra funding for the sector. This includes seeking to prevent contractors having to repay any of the advance payments that they have so far received this year.

PSNC's bid for extra funding is currently being considered by HM Treasury – we will update contractors as soon as we can.

To inform the funding negotiations PSNC is continuing to work with the other national pharmacy organisations to gather evidence of contractors' costs – data for April will shortly be submitted to Ministers to support our bid for more funding for community pharmacies.

[Read PSNC's statement here](#)

NHS Test and Trace: implications for community pharmacy

Yesterday evening the Government **announced** that the NHS Test and Trace programme would commence at 9am this morning. The announcement was followed by the publication of **[information on how the programme will operate](#)**.

At this time, the guidance issued by Government does not provide any information on whether there are different rules for healthcare workers, including community pharmacy team members; yesterday evening, PSNC sought further information on this from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). If further information is received from DHSC and NHSE&I, we will share this with pharmacy contractors and their teams.

[Read more here](#)

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