



# Daily Update

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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

**In today's update: massive demand for flu vaccinations; World Pharmacists' Day; portal open for all COVID-19 PPE needs; Fluoxetine 40mg capsules SSP extended.**

## Flu vaccination service gets off to a flying start

The first four weeks of the flu vaccination service have seen community pharmacists vaccinating **over 650,000 NHS patients** – **three times the number** vaccinated in the same period last year.

Contractors and Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) have reported a massive increase in public demand for flu vaccination; in some cases, this has been ten times the usual demand.

Commenting on these initial figures, **Simon Dukes, Chief Executive, PSNC** said:

"Community pharmacy teams have been the first out of the blocks in the NHS' effort to vaccinate a record number of people against flu. This is yet another excellent example of how community pharmacy can respond to the needs of patients and the NHS even in the midst of a global pandemic.

"Demand is clearly being driven by changes in patient's attitudes towards the risk of respiratory infections as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, the accelerated start to the service this year does mean many pharmacies are temporarily out of stock of vaccine before further supplies arrive as part of staged deliveries. We are discussing with DHSC the best approach for distribution of the vaccines in the Government stockpile to community pharmacies and we are pushing for the sector to have a priority call on the stock as soon as it starts to arrive in November."

[Read more about the availability of flu vaccine](#)

## Pharmacy representatives highlight need for inclusion on World Pharmacists' Day

Today, on World Pharmacists' Day, a joint statement has been published, which outlines a commitment to work collaboratively to improve inclusion and diversity across the pharmacy profession.

World Pharmacists' Day is an annual celebration of the valuable role of pharmacists in all sectors. With the outbreak of COVID-19, the importance of the work that pharmacists and their teams do for their patients and communities is much more apt this year. Community pharmacy teams have gone the extra mile to support patients despite an increased workload

and PSNC is helping make sure your value is recognised by NHS officials, politicians and in the media.

**[Read the Statement of Principles on Inclusive Pharmacy Professional Practice](#)**

## **All COVID-19 PPE now available via portal**

The Government's PPE portal can now be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) they need; the supplies will be provided free of charge. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has partnered with eBay, Clipper Logistics and Royal Mail to develop this service.

Pharmacies can use the portal to meet the extra need for PPE that has arisen as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current weekly order limits for pharmacies are listed on the **[GOV.UK website](#)**; the more staff a pharmacy has, the larger the quantity of PPE that can be ordered each week.

**[Find out more](#)**

## **Further extension to Fluoxetine 40mg capsules SSP**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced a further extension to the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules (SSP06). SSP06 for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules will now last until **2nd October 2020**.

**[Further information and guidance on SSP06](#)**

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ  
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: [info@psnc.org.uk](mailto:info@psnc.org.uk)