



Daily Update

Wednesday 30th December 2020

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

In today's update: deadline for ordering lateral flow tests; PSNC CEO reflects on 2020; suspension of EPS token submission; updated Brexit hub.

Deadline today: ordering COVID-19 lateral flow tests for staff

Today, Wednesday 30th December 2020, is **the deadline for placing orders for COVID-19 lateral flow tests** for use by asymptomatic pharmacy staff.

Following the Government announcement that lateral flow testing would be made available to all asymptomatic patient-facing NHS staff, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published [a letter to all primary care contractors](#) on 16th December 2020, announcing how they can order lateral flow tests. A dedicated [standard operating procedure \(SOP\) for primary care](#) has also been published.

Ordering process
Contractors should use the [PCSE online portal](#) to order lateral flow testing devices. Primary Care Support England (PCSE) has sent invitations to contractors, via emails to their shared NHSmail accounts, to make such orders but, if you didn't receive an email, you can still place an order for the tests.

Contractors should already have access to the [PCSE online portal](#), which is normally used to order supplies such as EPS dispensing tokens, FP57s, etc. However, if any contractor does not have access, they will need to [contact PCSE directly](#).

[Learn more about ordering lateral flow tests for staff use](#)

PSNC CEO reflects on 2020

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes reflects on community pharmacy's phenomenal work during 2020 in his latest blog.

Looking at the incredible achievements during a year of unprecedented challenges, the blog describes how pharmacies' resilience meant the public still had somewhere to go for face-to-face healthcare advice, despite the patchy nature of Government support for the sector.

[Read the PSNC CEO Blog](#)

The Chief Executive's monthly blog is also published in PSNC's Community Pharmacy News (CPN) magazine. [Read the December issue of CPN here.](#)

Reminder: Suspension of requirement to submit EPS tokens

With the end of month submission period for December 2020 approaching, community pharmacy contractors are reminded that it is no longer necessary to submit EPS tokens (other than those used for SSP claims) to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

The suspension of the requirement to submit EPS tokens follows the [temporary suspension of signature requirements](#) on prescriptions forms and EPS tokens which is provisionally set to last until 31st March 2021. The change to token submission requirements applies to prescriptions dispensed from December 2020 onwards and is intended to last until the suspension of signature requirements is lifted.

[Find out more and view PSNC's guidance](#)

Updated Brexit Hub

The UK left the European Union at the end of January 2020, entering a transition period that maintains current trading rules until 31st December 2020.

The UK Government and the European Commission have concluded their negotiations on the terms of trade between the two markets after the end of the transition period. This does not remove any of the requirements to act now to prepare for new customs and border processes. The preparations put in place by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) [set out in November 2020](#) remain valid and current.

PSNC has updated its Brexit and Community Pharmacy Hub with the latest information and guidance: psnc.org.uk/Brexit

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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