



Daily Update

Tuesday 5th January 2021

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

In today's update: Pandemic Delivery Service active across England; COVID-19 vaccinations programme; PPE claims via MYS; new DMS resources; reminder of token submission suspension.

Pandemic Delivery Service now active across England

Following yesterday evening's Government announcement of the [commencement of a new national lockdown in England](#), clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients anywhere in England have been advised to recommence shielding; this included avoiding visiting pharmacies in person.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have consequently confirmed that the Pandemic Delivery Service will now cover CEV patients anywhere in England **from today (5th January 2021)**. These new arrangements replace those already in place for patients in Tier 4 areas previously announced over the last few weeks.

This change to the service requirements, announced late today, will run **until 23:59 on 21st February 2021**.

[Read further details here](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The Prime Minister has confirmed today that more than 1 million people in England have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19. Yesterday, announcing new national lockdown rules, he set out an ambition for the NHS to vaccinate the four highest priority groups – including all health and social care workers – by the middle of February. If all goes to plan, this means that all those working in pharmacy should be offered a vaccination by mid-February.

PSNC is continuing to stress to the media and officials that if it is to achieve the Government's ambitious COVID-19 vaccination plan, we believe the NHS should look to community pharmacies. Pharmacies have a strong track-record in vaccinations and they have been open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic offering healthcare advice close to people's homes: we should make the most of this formidable healthcare network to help with this latest challenge. We know that some pharmacies have been making applications to become local vaccination sites and we understand that the first of these will become operational soon. We expect that pharmacy's role in vaccinations will ramp up over the coming weeks and months and we will continue to press for a national action plan to involve as many pharmacies as want to help in the programme.

Updated notice: PPE claims via MYS

Yesterday we informed contractors of a problem with the personal protective equipment (PPE) claim tab on the NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. Unfortunately, this issue is ongoing. It was expected to be fixed by 9am today but further issues have unfortunately emerged, and we are now not expecting the portal to go live tomorrow (January 6th) either. We will update contractors as soon as we have a confirmed launch date.

PSNC is very conscious that the delays cause problems for contractors both in terms of shortening the claims window and potentially delaying payment now that the January 5th claims deadline will pass at midnight tonight – we will work through these issues with DHSC and NHSBSA to ensure that a fully working PPE claims system is launched, and meets contractors' needs, as soon as possible.

Preparing to provide the DMS

To support contractors preparing to provide the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS), which will become an Essential service for contractors on 15th February 2021, PSNC has published some additional resources on the [DMS page of our website](#).

The additional resources include a contractor checklist, an introduction for general practice and PCN clinical pharmacy teams, and a briefing for pharmacy teams.

Reminder: Suspension of requirement to submit EPS tokens

Contractors are reminded that it is no longer necessary to submit EPS tokens (other than those used for SSP claims) with their FP34C submission document and prescription bundle.

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.

[View PSNC's guidance](#)

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

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