



# COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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: Category M prices increase by £15m; 25th May bank holiday announcement; NHSE&I webinar; CPCS consultation claim deadline.**

## **DHSC to inject £15m increase into reimbursement prices**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will increase medicine reimbursement prices by £15 million in June, it has announced.

The increase is being made based on margin data from 2019/20 along with predictions for delivery in 2020/21. PSNC has repeatedly highlighted the significant cashflow problems facing community pharmacy contractors at this time. PSNC and DHSC will continue to monitor carefully medicine margin data in order to identify if, and when, further increases are required.

PSNC has made representations to HM Government and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) about the urgent need for more investment in community pharmacies and that funding bid, which is separate to discussions on margin, is still being considered by HM Treasury and Ministers.

[Learn more here](#)

## **No automatic requirement to open on 25th May Bank Holiday**

In today's Primary Care Bulletin email, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) confirmed that there would be no blanket requirement for all community pharmacies to open on the Spring Bank Holiday (25th May 2020).

Thanking those pharmacies who have volunteered to open on 25th May, NHSE&I stated that its regional teams will work locally to ensure communities have sufficient access in their areas. Contractors are therefore encouraged to continue to work with their NHSE&I regional team to ensure there is adequate bank holiday provision of pharmaceutical services for the day; involving your LPC as appropriate.

[Read more here](#)

## NHSE&I Community Pharmacy Webinar

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are holding their next COVID-19 preparedness webinar for community pharmacy teams, hosted by Keith Ridge and Ed Waller, **tomorrow (Wednesday 20th May), 7pm to 8pm**. This fortnight's webinar will include advice on the Electronic Prescription Service and care homes guidance.

[Join the NHSE&I webinar on Wednesday evening](#)

## Make sure you have claimed for CPCS consultations

Contractors must submit their NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) payment claim for October and November 2019 consultations **by 31st May 2020**, otherwise the funding will be lost to the contractor (claims will only be accepted by the NHSBSA within six months of completion of a referral, in accordance with the usual Drug Tariff claims process).

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has informed PSNC that there are still **around 750 contractors** that have pending claims from October and November within the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. We urge all contractors to check whether they have any outstanding claims for previous months in MYS that have not yet been submitted.

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. As MURs and NMS can't be done face-to-face at the moment, can we do them over the phone instead?**

NMS can be conducted over the phone. MURs can also be provided exceptionally by telephone, but only where the local NHSE&I team gives its approval for a particular patient, and on a particular occasion. The Directions require a telephone MUR to be carried out such that no-one can overhear the consultation. Contractors can use [PSNC's PREM2 forms](#) to make applications to their local NHSE&I team for telephone MURs and off-site MURs.

### **Q. During the pandemic, do we still need to get the patient to sign a paper consent form for MUR and NMS?**

Yes. The Secretary of State Directions require that all patients receiving the MUR service or NMS service must sign a consent form, so signing or making their mark on a consent form is required in all cases. PSNC is discussing with NHSE&I and DHSC moving to a verbal consent model for Advanced services, so the need for a signed paper consent form would be removed. If this is removed, PSNC will notify contractors; until then, paper consent forms must continue to be used.

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

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

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