



COVID-19 Update

Friday 29th 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: PSNC's May meeting; PSNC COVID-19 communications; pharmacy social media campaign.

PSNC considers next steps for the sector at May meeting

The PSNC Committee met virtually last week, holding detailed discussions on which activities community pharmacies should stop, start or continue to do in the current and coming environment. Immediate priorities such as the NHS Flu Vaccination Service were considered as well as the role that pharmacies could play in future COVID-19 services such as testing.

Further information is available in our [Summary of the May PSNC meeting](#).

PSNC COVID-19 communications

This month's blog from PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes looks forward to a post-COVID world where we can 'Reset and Reform' community pharmacy.

[Read the May 2020 CEO Blog](#)

The May 2020 edition of PSNC's regular Community Pharmacy News (CPN) magazine is now available. This issue of CPN features:

- Further monies secured to ease the cashflow crisis pharmacy contractors are facing;
- PSNC's CEO looks toward a post-COVID world;
- Support to review your COVID-19 procedures; and
- Answers to your dispensing queries.

[Read May's CPN magazine](#)

Pharmacy social media campaign

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) will be running a new social media campaign promoting the work of community pharmacies over the next week. Following on from yesterday's #HelpUsHelpYou primary care day, the campaign will describe the role that pharmacy teams have in supporting patients and the public to keep safe by getting the advice and medicines they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keep a look out for the activity on NHS social media channels and please share and retweet to get the message out as widely as possible. In addition, updated social media assets for community pharmacy during the pandemic can be found in the [PHE Campaign Resource Centre](#).

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. What actions have been taken to protect the supply chain and ensure pharmacies have access to reasonable stock levels?

DHSC recently stated: "the country is well prepared to deal with any impacts of COVID-19 and we have stockpiles of generic drugs in the event of any supply issues or significant increases in demand. The Department is working closely with industry, the National Health Service and others in the supply chain to help ensure patients can access the medicines they need, and precautions are in place to reduce the likelihood of future shortages".

In addition, the Government has already [banned the export of a number of medicines](#). The restrictions first came into place from 3rd October 2019 as part of efforts to prepare for a possible no-deal Brexit and the list of medicines has continued to grow. PSNC remains in regular contact with DHSC Supply team to share information and discuss any current or expected supply issues so DHSC can monitor and take appropriate action, where necessary.

Q. Why is my wholesaler still billing me for fuel surcharges when the price of fuel has dropped?

As fuel prices have dropped significantly during the pandemic, PSNC reached out to the mainline wholesaler to inquire about their fuel surcharges. AAH and Alliance have responded saying that they will recognise the drop in fuel costs when calculating any applicable surcharges.

[AAH has advised](#) that there will be no fuel surcharge applied for April purchasing due to the significant fall in fuel prices. Alliance has indicated that they bill this retrospectively, so any fuel surcharge invoice in your May statement will relate to April fuel prices ([view the sliding scale](#)).

It is worth noting that all surcharges are subject to change and we would encourage regular contact with your account manager to understand how and when these are applied, if you feel you have been incorrectly invoiced please raise this with them directly.

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

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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