



# COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 9th June 2020

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 review; Flu Vaccination Service update; operational pressures survey reminder.**

## **Pandemic Delivery Service review**

With the Pandemic Delivery Service set to be reviewed shortly, PSNC Director of NHS Services, Alastair Buxton, has provided the following update for pharmacy teams.

The future of the Pandemic Delivery Service is currently being considered by Government, as part of its wider review of the support for people asked to shield themselves from COVID-19. This will no doubt be informed by wider changes that have started to be made to the recommendations to shielded patients, such as them being able to spend time outside once a day.

PSNC will shortly meet with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to discuss the service, at which point, Government decisions will hopefully have been made on their overall policy on support for shielded patients and any need for ongoing commissioning of the service. We will update contractors once a conclusion to these discussions has been reached.

## **Flu Vaccination Service update**

DHSC, NHSE&I and Public Health England (PHE) are currently undertaking an extensive programme of work to plan for the flu vaccination programme in 2020/21, including consideration of how the programme can be delivered in a COVID-safe manner. Consideration is also still being given to whether the programme could be expanded to include a wider group of patients than normal, as was highlighted in the [Annual flu letter for 2020/21](#).

Following planning discussions at its May Committee meeting, PSNC has started discussions with NHSE&I on potential changes to the community pharmacy flu vaccination service which could be made this year to support provision of the service in a COVID-safe way. We have also asked for clear guidance to be provided by PHE on the appropriate personal protective equipment to be used when vaccinating patients; in the meantime, it would be safe for contractors to assume that the use of fluid resistant surgical masks will be a minimum requirement, as it will clearly not be possible for pharmacists to vaccinate patients while also maintaining a two metre social distance.

We know contractors want to know as soon as possible what changes, if any, will be made to the service this year and we are working with NHSE&I to get to an agreement on that as quickly as possible. DHSC has not yet made any decisions on extension of the scope of the

programme this year and that Government decision will need to be made before any negotiations on the service can be completed. We will update contractors on the 2020/21 service as soon as we are able.

## COVID-19 operational pressures on independent pharmacies – May 2020 survey

Independent pharmacy contractors are reminded to fill out our May 2020 'Temperature Check' survey looking at various operational pressures from the COVID-19 pandemic last month.

The survey is part of PSNC's wider work collecting information about the impact that the pandemic is having on pharmacies. Data from the survey will be aggregated to help understand the pressures independent pharmacies are facing, and individual responses will not be shared.

Please [complete the survey](#) by Friday 12th June.

Note, do not fill out this survey if you are part of a larger group as your data is being compiled via AIM and the CCA.

### 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. 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.

#### **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.

[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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