



# COVID-19 Update

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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: changes for those who are shielding; last chance for Early May Bank Holiday opening claims; PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit update.**

## Government announces plans for changes to Shielding

This evening, Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced the Government's plans to **ease guidance for the 2.2 million people who have been shielding** since the start of the pandemic.

From Monday 6th July 2020, those shielding from coronavirus can gather in groups of up to six people outdoors and they can also form a 'support bubble' with another household. The Government shielding support package will remain in place until the end of July, when people will no longer be advised to shield. From Saturday 1st August 2020, the guidance will then be relaxed so clinically extremely vulnerable people will no longer be advised to shield, but support will remain available from NHS volunteers and local councils.

The announcement noted that an NHS Medicine Delivery Service is available from community pharmacies, which ensures the delivery of medicines to shielded patients where family, friends or volunteers cannot collect them. We expect that NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) will write to pharmacy contractors in the next few days to confirm that the provisions for **the pandemic delivery service** (the Terms of Service requirements and the Advanced service) will remain in place **until 31st July 2020**.

PSNC will issue further information to contractors via our usual communications channels once NHSE&I issue their communications on the extension of the service. We will also consider what additional resources are required by contractors to assist them with provision of the service until the end of July and the need for the end of the NHS-funded service to be carefully communicated to shielded patients.

## Last day to claim for Early May Bank Holiday opening

Community pharmacy contractors have until **11.59pm on Monday 22nd June** to claim payment for opening 2pm - 5pm on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May).

Claims for the £250 per hour payment must be submitted using the **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**. This payment, due to be made on 1st July, will not appear on the FP34 Schedule of Payment but the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will provide confirmation of payment via individual contractor letters.

**[Learn more about making this claim](#)**

## PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit update

Community pharmacy contractors can now access guidance about the upcoming pharmacy advice clinical audit, including full details of how to take part in the audit.

A [team briefing sheet](#) sets out the criteria for inclusion, what needs to be recorded and how to reflect on your pharmacy's results. It also answers some frequently asked questions as identified during testing with a small number of pharmacies.

An [audit template](#) provides a simple way to record the required data, making things smoother for data entry onto PharmOutcomes.

### Have you seen our latest COVID-19 related 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. Can community pharmacies request a list of their nominated patients who are also on the Shielded patient list?**

PSNC has discussed with NHSE&I the potential for such lists of patients to be provided to pharmacy contractors, but it has been determined that the lists would rapidly become out of date, so it is best that where a patient states they have been asked to shield themselves, this is checked via their SCR. The fluidity of the list of Shielded patients is occurring as a result of changes that GPs and hospital consultants are making to the list and ongoing changes in the clinical condition of individuals. During the pandemic, there has also been an increase in patients changing their EPS nominations, so that would further impact on the accuracy of any patient lists provided to pharmacies.

#### **Q. How will the 2020/21 Flu Vaccination Service be delivered safely by pharmacists?**

Due to the public health advice on social distancing and shielding, the flu vaccination programme this year may need to be provided in a different way, for example, with pharmacists wearing PPE. It is also likely that increased public awareness of infection control will mean there is an increased demand for vaccination from eligible patients. Public Health England, NHSE&I and DHSC are considering the potential changes that may need to be made when administering flu vaccines this year and further guidance will be issued to contractors in due course.

[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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