



COVID-19 Update

Monday 29th 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: further £20m cash injection to ease cashflow challenges; reminder to take part in the Pharmacy Advice Audit this week; GPhC and CMA letter on pandemic pricing.

PSNC secures £20m cash injection ahead of further funding negotiations

Ministers have agreed to inject a further £20m of advance funding into community pharmacies at the end of June. This follows ongoing representations from PSNC about the cashflow problems facing many contractors as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The total advance funding this month is smaller than in previous months because although contractors are still reporting additional COVID-19 related costs and cashflow problems, these are less than those which they experienced through the initial peak of the pandemic.

These ongoing costs must be covered, but there is also now an urgent need to reach an overall settlement on community pharmacy COVID-19 related funding, including on how the advance funding may need to be paid back in future.

The latest funding injection brings the total of the advance funding payments made in recognition of COVID-19 related cashflow challenges to £370m. PSNC's strong view is that community pharmacy contractors must not have to pay back these monies, and we will continue to press for that.

PSNC's bid for additional funding for the sector is still being considered by HM Treasury and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) – we will update contractors as soon as we can.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is calculating payments with the intention that the extra £20 million can be paid at the same time as the 1st July payment. The latest payment comes as DHSC has also maintained the £15m uplift to reimbursement prices first seen in June.

[Read more, including PSNC's statement here](#)

Please undertake the Pharmacy Advice Audit this week

The participation period for the PSNC pharmacy advice clinical audit takes place this week.

Community pharmacy teams are encouraged to undertake PSNC's audit to capture information about the advice they give to their patients and local communities. The audit will help demonstrate the added value your pharmacy team delivers and, alongside data from other pharmacies, will support the ongoing funding negotiations, including our call for more investment in the sector.

Pharmacies are requested to carry out the audit on a single day **this week (29th June to 5th July)** and, once completed, pharmacy teams are asked to submit their data to PSNC via PharmOutcomes.

This audit has been made as simple as possible to complete following testing with a small number of pharmacies in the south west of England. Also, it can be carried out as one of pharmacies' contractual (clinical) audits for 2020/21. We hope this will enable as many pharmacy teams as possible to take part.

Further information and resources can be found at: psnc.org.uk/adviceaudit

GPhC and CMA letter on pandemic pricing

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) have written to pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists highlighting reports that indicate a small minority may be charging unjustifiably high prices for essential products.

The joint letter outlines the GPhC's and CMA's respective roles and expectations in relation to this issue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Where can I find the payments for the Pandemic Delivery Service on my Schedule of Payments for the dispensing month of April 2020?

The first payment to pharmacy contractors for the delivery service is due on Wednesday 1st July. The payments for the delivery service will appear on your FP34 Schedule of Payments and itemised as follows:

Essential Service element

The Essential Service payment for the delivery service will be paid on the same line of your Schedule of Payments as the 'Transitional Payment'. It will show as a total figure.

Advanced Service element

The Advanced Service payment will be listed as 'Additional advance payment' under the section titled 'Summary of Payment Amounts'

[Click here for information on other Covid-19 related payments expected in July.](#)

When will I receive payment for Early May Bank Holiday opening hours claimed using MYS?

Eligible contractors should expect a separate payment from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) on the 1st July 2020 in addition to the payment indicated on their latest Schedule of Payment (for dispensing month of April). The payment for Early May Bank Holiday opening hours will not be separately itemised on your FP34 Schedule of Payments. However, the NHSBSA will issue letters to contractors who claimed to inform them of the payment made to them.

[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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