



Daily Update

Thursday 9th July 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: staff risk assessment progress survey; June COVID-19 pressures survey.

NHSBSA launches staff risk assessment survey

Community pharmacy contractors are being asked to declare their progress on performing COVID-19 risk assessments for their staff.

At the end of June, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) requested that individual risk assessments for at least staff in at-risk group (including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff) should be completed within a month ([see the PSNC news article here](#)). They have now authorised the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to collect information about the progress of community pharmacy contractors over the course of July; similar information is also being requested from the other primary care contractors.

There will be two windows for collection:

- 9am on **9th July** to 11.59pm on **17th July**; and
- 9am on **24th July** to 11.59pm on **31st July**.

Contractors are asked to submit a declaration in each window, even if all staff assessments were completed during the first.

[Complete the Risk Assessment Declaration](#)

NHSBSA has contacted all pharmacies via NHSmail, but information can also be found on the [NHSBSA website](#).

Further support and guidance on undertaking individual staff risk assessments can be found on our [PPE, staff safety and security webpage](#).

COVID-19 pressures – June 2020 survey

Independent pharmacy owners are reminded that PSNC needs your help to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on your business.

If you run an independent pharmacy, we would be very grateful if you could [fill out the June 2020 'Temperature Check' survey by clicking here](#). The survey is open now until 23:59 on Monday 13th July.

Note, AIM and CCA are sharing their members' responses separately.

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:

Q. Is it safe to handle paper FP10 prescriptions issued by GPs, dentists, hospital outpatient clinics etc.? Is there a risk of catching COVID-19 from "infected" forms?
PHE has provided the following advice on the risk of COVID-19 infection by handling paper:

It is theoretically possible that a person can transmit and/or contract COVID-19 by touching a surface and/or object, (i.e. medication boxes and/or prescription tokens) that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. However, in general, because of poor survivability of coronaviruses on surfaces, it is considered a very low risk that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) can be spread from packaging including prescription tokens and medication containers. We recommend frequent hand washing to minimise any potential risk.

While paper prescriptions are becoming less common as most prescribing in primary care is undertaken using the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), pharmacy contractors are reminded that they must dispense legally valid paper prescriptions presented for dispensing, including those from healthcare providers where they do not have access to EPS, such as dental practices and hospitals.

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

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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