



# Daily Update

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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: Face coverings to be mandatory in shops and supermarkets; rollout of electronic notifications for CPCS; and guidance about employing pre-reg pharmacists

### Face coverings to be mandatory in shops and supermarkets from 24th July 2020

In the past few weeks non-essential retail premises have reopened to the public and yesterday, it was announced that as part of a move to enhance protection for those that work in shops, as well as to give people more confidence to shop safely, **face coverings would be made mandatory in shops (including pharmacies) and supermarkets from 24th July 2020.**

PSNC has previously provided guidance to contractors on the use of [facemasks and face coverings](#), including an initial [poster template](#) that can be displayed to advise patients and customers to wear face coverings.

[View the full story here](#)

### Electronic notifications for CPCS urgent supply now rolling out

Most community pharmacy contractors in England will be able to send electronic notifications for urgent supplies of medicines provided as part of the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service ([CPCS](#)) by the end of July 2020.

This assists pharmacy teams with informing GPs that one of their patients has received an urgent supply of a medicine or appliance via the CPCS.

The new functionality is already live for pharmacies in London using the Sonar Informatics system and it will be enabled for pharmacies elsewhere in England using Pinnacle Health's PharmOutcomes system over the next three weeks.

Additional system guidance and roll out information is available from system [suppliers](#).

Read more at: [Notifications to GP practice systems](#) and on the [NHS Digital website](#).

## Guidance about employing provisionally-registered pharmacists

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has written to pharmacy owners and superintendents to share [guidance about employing provisionally-registered pharmacists](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the ability of trainees completing the pharmacist pre-registration scheme in 2020 to finish their training as planned, and to sit the registration assessment as originally scheduled.

Pending successful completion of the rescheduled assessment, the GPhC governing council has agreed a policy for registering pharmacists on a provisional basis.

The policy sets out that current pre-registration trainees who meet the criteria for provisional registration are able to be provisionally-registered as a pharmacist, with certain restrictions, from 1 August 2020.

The guidance sets out what employers and superintendents must do, if they plan to employ a pharmacist who is provisionally registered.

[View the guidance document here](#)

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. What should contractors do if members of staff refuse to have an individual risk assessment?**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have written to NHS providers, including community pharmacy contractors, requesting the urgent completion of staff risk assessments. In light of the new risks to healthcare staff posed by the COVID-19 outbreak, [the letter from NHSE&I](#) outlines the responsibilities of employers as well as the support available to help them.

Contractors are recommended to:

- Communicate to their team members the approach being taken to risk assessment, reassuring them as to the nature of the assessment being undertaken and the support available to them. The contractor's organisational policy regarding confidentiality should be clearly stated (and complied with);
- Share their chosen risk assessment tool or guidance with all team members to help them identify whether they are in an at-risk group; and
- Explain the need for staff to discuss with their manager any concerns as a result of the risk assessment guide or any concern or anxiety they might have (and offer them alternative routes of support prior to these discussions).

If despite all of this a staff member is unwilling to participate in a risk assessment or is unwilling to provide information to support the completion of a risk assessment, then they are within their rights not to have a risk assessment. Contractors in this position are encouraged to document this and request that the staff member complete a declaration to confirm their wishes.

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

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

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