



Daily Update

Thursday 16th 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: digital guide to Pharmacy Quality Scheme; risk assessments webinar on-demand; SSP for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules extended.

10-minute digital guide to PQS now live

A 10-minute digital guide to the new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for the first part of 2020/21 is now live. The new scheme was announced on 13th July 2020, with a focus on ensuring community pharmacy contractors and their teams have put in place all reasonable measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting both themselves and the people using their services.

To meet the requirements of the new scheme, contractors need to complete all 14 actions set out in a checklist, all of which relate to the response to the pandemic; many contractors will already have undertaken most if not all of the actions in the checklist over the last few months.

The PSNC Digital Guide to the scheme provides a short guide to the requirements and what contractors need to do to be able to complete the necessary actions and claim payment.

[Watch the 10-minute guide and read more details on the Part 1 PQS](#)

NHSE&I webinar on risk assessments now on-demand

Last week NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) held a webinar on risk assessments in community pharmacy. Aiming to help and support community pharmacy employers and managers to carry out the **[requested staff risk assessments within the given timeframe](#)**, the webinar included speakers from the National Pharmacy Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

[The webinar recording and slides](#) have now been published on the **[FutureNHS website](#)** (login required, but it is free to register).

Further extension to Fluoxetine 40mg capsules SSP

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has provided an update on the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules (SSP06).

The SSP for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules has been extended until **10th August 2020**. This expiry date may be brought forward or extended, and the content may be amended throughout this period. Pharmacists should ensure they are using the current version of an SSP before supplying an alternative product.

[Click here for full details and SSP guidance](#)

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. As Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) staff members have been identified to be at higher risk of complications linked to COVID-19 infection, should I just do risk assessments with them?

You must ensure that all staff are informed that a risk assessment is available, the risk factors for poorer outcomes of COVID-19, to help them understand why a risk assessment may be relevant to them and that you wish to conduct one with them to help them understand their risks and work with them to mitigate any identified risks following completion of the risk assessment.

This is a collaborative process and staff members of BAME background as well as those who are classed as at-risk due to an underlying medical condition or pregnancy are all encouraged to have a risk assessment. Staff members should be encouraged to meet with their manager to complete the risk assessment if they wish.

Q. Does the risk assessment mean all BAME staff members should work from home or change their job role?

No, the risk assessment should allow a shared understanding of the level of risk the staff member has. This therefore provides the line manager with a better understanding to consider mitigations that could be put in place to reduce the staff member's exposure. Considerations, where reasonable to implement, may include whether the staff member can work from home, or be redeployed, or used in another part of the pharmacy that may reduce their risk.

[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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14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: info@psnc.org.uk