



# Daily Update

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

**In today's update: PPE reimbursement; COVID-19 lateral flow testing; statement on medicines supply; King's Fund explainer.**

## **COVID-19 PPE reimbursement: update for contractors**

PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are working together to finalise a mechanism by which pharmacy contractors will be able to claim reimbursement for their expenditure on personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. We hope to be able to make an announcement on the reimbursement mechanism in the near future.

Any PPE purchased by contractors up until 31st December 2020 will be covered by the reimbursement mechanism, if it will be used by the end of March 2021.

But contractors should be aware that any PPE purchased directly by them from 1st January 2021 **will not be reimbursable** via the mechanism under discussion. Contractors can continue to order free of charge PPE for use in their pharmacy via the DHSC's PPE portal, for which they should ensure they have registered.

[Read more here](#)

## **COVID-19 lateral flow testing for pharmacy staff**

Following the Government announcement on 9th November that lateral flow testing would be made available to all asymptomatic patient-facing NHS staff, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published a letter to all primary care contractors late on 16th December 2020, announcing how they can order lateral flow tests.

The supply of these tests will allow all patient-facing staff to be able to test, twice-weekly, using self-administered nasal swabbing and report their results through an online platform. Any positive lateral flow antigen tests will need to be followed up by a confirmatory PCR test.

The [information from NHSE&I confirms arrangements for the roll-out](#), including further information on how to order and receive deliveries of lateral flow antigen testing kits for staff.

## PSNC and BMA issue statement on medicines supply

PSNC and the British Medical Association (BMA) have issued a statement on medicines supply ahead of the UK's EU exit. The joint statement indicates the united position across primary care.

Both organisations highlight the significant amount of work undertaken by DHSC and NHSE&I, and stress the importance of collaborative working to maintain patient care to their members. Much of the statement reinforces Government messaging, particularly on the need to avoid local stockpiling of medicines and discouraging patients from over-ordering themselves. It also says that industry stakeholders will monitor the situation going forwards.

[Read the joint statement](#)

## The King's Fund creates Community Pharmacy Explainer

The King's Fund has published a new 'explainer' on community pharmacy which was developed with some input from PSNC. This may be useful for any influencing work you are undertaking with any stakeholders who are new to the sector and is aimed at people who know nothing about community pharmacy.

[Access the 'explainer' 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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