



Daily Update

Tuesday 19th January 2021

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

In today's update: 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit resources; COVID-19 vaccination programme indemnity arrangements update; FAQs on COVID-19 testing for pharmacy staff.

Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021: Paperwork and guidance now available

Community pharmacy contractors can now access guidance about the upcoming PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit for 2021, including full details of how to take part.

As announced last week, pharmacy teams are being encouraged to take part in an audit that will capture information about the reasons why people choose to visit community pharmacies. PSNC is increasingly concerned about the pressures that pharmacy teams are under during the COVID-19 pandemic and also about reports that general practice teams are referring patients to pharmacies for consultations informally, rather than via the agreed Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) route.

This audit will provide a critical temperature check – the data will allow PSNC to quantify how many unfunded GP referrals are taking place, and it will tell us more about impact that COVID-19 is having on pharmacy teams and on the advice that patients are seeking from you. This will provide crucial evidence for our ongoing funding discussions with HM Government and the NHS.

The PSNC audit has been road-tested by ten pharmacies to make it as simple as possible to carry out. It can be carried out in **just a single day in the week commencing Monday 25th January**. A team briefing sheet, audit template and digital guide are now available to support contractors and their teams in preparing to undertake this audit.

[View the audit resources](#)

Indemnity arrangements for the COVID-19 vaccination programme – update

Yesterday, Nadhim Zahawi, Minister for COVID Vaccination Deployment made a **[statement on the provision of indemnity for the vaccination programme](#)**, including provision by community pharmacy in England.

The Minister's statement provides clarity on why the indemnity has been provided to community pharmacy and also extends the scheme to 30th June 2021. He stated:

"Without adequate indemnity cover, pharmacies would be unable to commit to the programme... therefore, DHSC has provided a time limited clinical negligence indemnity to community pharmacy to 30 June 2021, to enable them to engage at pace with this programme ... the Department and NHS England and Improvement continue to work with the community pharmacy sector on a longer-term approach to insuring community pharmacy for Covid-19 vaccinations."

Contractors who provide COVID-19 vaccination services under Local Enhanced Service (LES) agreements are issued with a letter detailing the indemnity cover, which provides, for example, that the indemnity is provided subject to the contractor's compliance with the terms and conditions of the LES Agreement and the terms of the indemnity arrangements.

The Minister's statement is further to the [joint letter](#) issued by the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement late last year.

[More on COVID-19 vaccinations, including indemnity arrangements](#)

FAQs on COVID-19 vaccinations for pharmacy staff

Earlier this month NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) wrote to NHS Trusts and other NHS bodies to provide [additional operational guidance](#) on the vaccination of frontline health and social care workers.

We have summarised the key points for pharmacy contractors and their teams in a series of questions and answers.

[Read the FAQs](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions on the topic **Lateral Flow Testing for asymptomatic pharmacy staff** include:

Q. How frequently should staff be tested?

Staff should test themselves twice weekly (every three to four days) to fit with shift patterns and leave requirements; for example, Wednesday and Sunday, or Monday and Thursday.

Q. When should staff test?

Staff should be asked to perform the test before attending work, leaving enough time before the start of their shift to alert their employer who may need to arrange cover, should their lateral flow test be positive.

Q. Where should staff test?

Staff should conduct the test at home if possible.

Full information on Lateral Flow Testing for asymptomatic pharmacy staff can be found on the [Staff wellbeing and COVID-19 testing page](#).

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

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