



Daily Update

Thursday 28th 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: PQS declaration FAQs; pharmacists vaccinate housebound patients; PPE Claim deadline and payment dates; Pharmacy Advice Audit reminder.

PQS: Preparing to declare – additional FAQs

As the declaration window for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2020/21 Part 2 approaches, PSNC has received several questions related to the **announced flexible timing** agreed with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

PSNC has confirmed some additional questions and answers with NHSE&I that will assist contractors in preparing to make their declarations. These include some on general information, applicable to the declaration as a whole, as well as a set specifically relating to the Primary Care Network (PCN) Domains.

[View the FAQs](#)

South Tyneside pharmacists make COVID vaccination house calls

Whilst only small numbers of community pharmacy vaccination sites have been able to open so far, PSNC is hearing incredible stories of collaboration between pharmacists, GPs and others to support all the different types of vaccination sites that are being set up across the country.

As part of a local service which launched on 23rd January, a team of 22 community pharmacists in South Tyneside – including PSNC Regional Representative Mark Burdon – are administering COVID-19 vaccinations to around 1,500 housebound patients in their own homes. The pharmacists are giving up their weekends in January and February 2021 to provide the service to the community's most vulnerable residents.

Working with local healthcare commissioners, Gateshead and South Tyneside LPC established a service to operate in conjunction with the Primary Care Network (PCN) designated vaccination site. The idea grew from conversations about pharmacists wanting to help support the COVID-19 vaccination programme given their experience of providing NHS flu jabs.

[Read more here](#)

PPE Claim deadline and payment dates

The deadline for claiming reimbursement for personal protective equipment (PPE) is now just over two weeks away, with the deadline being **11:59pm on Friday 12th February**.

Many pharmacy contractors that submitted claims in the first couple of days of the portal opening are now receiving their payments alongside their November 2020 prescription payments. The amount paid is shown on the Schedule of Payments under the 'Details of other amounts authorised' section as 'PPE Claims'.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has confirmed that claims made by the end of 5th February 2021 will be paid in the December 2020 dispensing month Schedule of Payment, unless they have made exceptional claims that are selected for payment verification and where this cannot be completed in time for the actual payment run, or there are other queries relating to the claim submission. Where evidence is requested for exceptional claims, it is recommended that contractors provide this as soon as possible to support timely payment.

It is most likely that any claims made between 6th-12th February will be paid with the later January 2021 dispensing month Schedule of Payment (paid 1st April 2021), rather than the earlier December 2020 dispensing month Schedule of Payment (paid 1st March 2021).

Wider details of the PPE reimbursement are on our [Personal protective equipment, staff safety and security webpage](#) and the most common queries are answered on our [Pharmacy PPE Claim process FAQs webpage](#) – note, we have added new FAQs today.

Have you completed the 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit?

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that the participation period for PSNC's 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit takes place this week, and we would be hugely grateful to anyone who does take part.

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.

Full details, paperwork and guidance can be found at: psnc.org.uk/adviceaudit

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

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