



Daily Update

Friday 12th February 2021

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

In today's update: PPE claims deadline; pharmacy staff C-19 vaccination; PhAS update; DMS FAQs.

Last chance: PPE payment claims deadline

Community pharmacy contractors have until **23:59pm today (12th February 2021)** left to claim reimbursement for their expenditure on personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Claims must be submitted using the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#).

[Read more here](#) or take a look at our [FAQs on the PPE Claim process](#)

Pharmacy staff C-19 vaccination

To support healthcare workers, including community pharmacy staff, and community based social care workers to receive their COVID-19 vaccination, they now have the option to book their vaccination appointments in a vaccination centre or community pharmacy through the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Booking Service.

Staff can book online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination.

As part of the booking process, eligible staff need to self-declare they are a health or social care worker and they will be asked for identification and written authorisation when they attend their vaccination appointment.

Vaccine uptake

In this week's Primary Care Bulletin, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) shared a letter for all primary care contractors, including community pharmacy contractors, to encourage participation in its assurance work around staff coronavirus vaccinations.

CCGs or regional teams have been asking contractors about the proportion of their frontline staff who have been given a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. PSNC encourages contractors to complete these forms and return them, so far as they are able, to help provide the assurance that pharmacy staff have been vaccinated or have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated. This should also help to identify those members of staff who are still to receive a vaccination.

[Read more here](#)

Pharmacy Access Scheme update

The planned update this year to the Pharmacy Scheme (PhAS) has been delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the scheme will continue in its current form into the next financial year.

PhAS seeks to ensure patient access to local physical community pharmacies. It provides additional payments to some eligible contractors, which are funded by the remaining contractors. The scheme was imposed on the sector in late 2016.

The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24 indicated that PhAS would be maintained, but updated and improved, to be more responsive to changes within the market and take account of the shift in funding from dispensing to clinical services. (See more information on PSNC's [PhAS webpage](#)).

It is expected that an updated scheme will be forthcoming this year.

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 include on the **Discharge Medicines Service (DMS)**:

Q. How many referrals for the DMS will most pharmacies receive?

The number of referrals will inevitably vary from pharmacy to pharmacy, even when the service is fully mature, as the patient profile of individual pharmacies and the likelihood of their patients being admitted to hospital and then being referred to the DMS at discharge will vary. At the commencement of the service in early 2021, not all hospitals are yet ready to make referrals to the service, so some pharmacies will not start to receive referrals on a regular basis until local Trusts have engaged with the service. Both these factors make it difficult to accurately model the likely number of referrals that an average pharmacy will receive, once the service has fully matured, but our current best estimate is around 12 referrals per year.

Q. Is there mandatory training required for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians providing the service?

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians providing the service need to be trained on how the service will operate and their role in providing it. There is no requirement to undertake a specific training programme, but reading the NHS England and NHS Improvement regulations guidance and the DMS Toolkit will provide key information that professionals need to understand. The CPPE DMS training programme will also support professionals to understand the service and their role within it. All pharmacists and pharmacy technicians that will provide all or part of the service need to complete the DMS Declaration of Competence to demonstrate that they have the necessary knowledge and competence to provide the service. A copy of the completed Declaration of Competence should be given to the pharmacy contractor.

Q. When providing the DMS, do contractors need to obtain consent from the patient to look at their Summary Care Record (SCR), or is consent implied by the patient agreeing for the pharmacy to have their discharge summary for this service?

If access to SCR is necessary, consent would still be required from the patient.

Further information is in our [DMS hub](#).

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

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