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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Wednesday 10th November 2021 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: Minister gets flu jab at pharmacy; updated flu vac PGD and national protocol; compulsory C-19 vac for NHS staff; £16m investment in workforce development; changing pharmacy opening hours.Minister receives flu jab at pharmacyEarlier this week, the recently appointed Pharmacy Minister, Maria Caulfield received her NHS flu jab at the S.G. Barai Pharmacy in Sutton, Surrey.The Minister was welcomed by pharmacist and independent pharmacy owner Reena Barai, who was keen to talk to her about the operational challenges that pharmacies are currently facing. Reena also explained the complexity of some of the walk-in healthcare consultations that pharmacies are offering and the need for adequate funding for those.[**Read more about the Minister's visit**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2d9b38aa6f&e=d19e9fd41c)Flu vac: updated PGD and national protocol publishedFollowing the [**announcement**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=332cbfe541&e=d19e9fd41c) of additional funding to support provision of flu vaccinations to frontline primary care staff, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have approved the patient group direction (PGD) and national protocol for use by community pharmacy contractors, meaning vaccination of these staff as part of the service can now commence.Contractors must keep a manual record of the number of primary care staff they vaccinate in the service and report this data each month on the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal in a new module, which will be linked to from the main MYS flu vaccination module. PSNC has published a tally chart for contractors to use to keep count of the number of staff from each primary care setting that they have vaccinated.[**Learn more and download PSNC's Primary Care Staff Flu Vac Tracker**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=42080e3973&e=d19e9fd41c)GPhC statement on compulsory C-19 vaccination for NHS staffYesterday, the Government [**announced**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=5242f3d70b&e=d19e9fd41c) that frontline NHS staff will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This will apply across the CQC regulated health and care sector, and is expected to come into force from April 2022. This does not apply to people working in community pharmacies regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).[**Read the GPhC statement issued to the pharmacy sector**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=00c9d76eb8&e=d19e9fd41c)Almost £16 million investment in workforce developmentNHSE&I's Pharmacy Integration Programme will invest up to £15.9 million over the next four years in a boost to pharmacy professional career development. This money will be used to provide a range of training and development opportunities, such as training in independent prescribing for pharmacists working in community pharmacy.[**Find out more and read the PSNC response to this announcement**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=45b9c2ef68&e=d19e9fd41c)Changing pharmacy opening hours in response to workforce pressures during the ongoing pandemicSelf-isolation requirements and a lack of available pharmacists (amongst other things) mean that short-notice closures/late opening/early closing incidents are continuing to happen, unavoidably, within the community pharmacy sector.Contractors unable to find a pharmacist to staff a pharmacy may still **seek** to use emergency provisions introduced at the start of the pandemic to reduce temporarily the number of hours or days that they are open. But NHSE&I must agree any contractor application to use the emergency provisions, even if this is done retrospectively.[**Learn more about the application of the emergency provisions**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9d68e85960&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee    14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQTel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: **info@psnc.org.uk**  |
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