



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 2nd July 2020

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

In today's update: new Test and Trace guidance; NHS Health Check restart webinar; electronic prescriptions exceed 85%.

NHS Test and Trace: New guidance for contractors

PSNC has today published new guidance on NHS Test and Trace for community pharmacy contractors.

Since the launch of the Government's NHS Test and Trace programme, a number of pharmacy teams across England have been asked to self-isolate in accordance with the service. PSNC has been working with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to clarify how Test and Trace applies to community pharmacy to help reduce the need for large numbers of pharmacies needing to close.

A new PSNC Briefing provides further information on the programme, gives advice on patient and staff contacts, and outlines the relevant mitigations that may help to avoid the need for whole pharmacy teams to self-isolate if one member tests positive for COVID-19. It will be updated if and when more information becomes available.

[PSNC Briefing 022/20: NHS Test and Trace – Key points for contractors as Q&As](#)

NHS Health Check: Restart Preparation Webinar

The Public Health England Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention team are hosting a webinar for NHS Health Check commissioners and providers to support restart planning and preparation for the NHS Health Check.

The webinar on **Tuesday 14th July** from **12:45 – 13:30** will highlight the relevant existing guidance and areas for consideration when restarting the programme during the COVID-19 recovery phase. It will also feature local implementors discussing how health checks are being restarted in their area.

[How to attend the webinar](#)

Electronic prescriptions reach more than 85%

Electronic prescriptions sent via the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) now make up more than 85% of all dispensed prescriptions.

The COVID-19 outbreak has increased the expansion rate of EPS, with the service now being utilised by more GP Access/virtual hubs, walk-in centres and out of hours settings than ever before, and uptake in urgent care settings contributing towards wider use of EPS.

One-off nomination is now available in many GP practices and other care settings, allowing prescriptions to be sent to an alternative pharmacy without affecting a patient's existing nominations and avoiding the need for paper print-outs. This feature will soon roll-out on the remaining GP practice systems.

Latest figures show that 53% of GP practices are now using **Phase 4**.

Read more at [EPS](#) and [EPS updates](#).

Have you seen our latest COVID-19 related FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Are pharmacy staff eligible for testing, and if so, how is this accessed?

Yes, frontline workers, including community pharmacy staff in England, can access free testing for COVID-19, via the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) national testing service. Testing will allow those currently unable to return to work because they or a member of their family or household have symptoms of coronavirus to know whether they do have the virus.

A new portal for booking COVID-19 tests for key workers, including community pharmacy team members, is now available for use by team members and employers: [Essential workers: apply for a coronavirus test \(GOV.UK\)](#)

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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

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