



COVID-19 Update

Friday 3rd 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: early guidance on Flu Vaccination Service; June COVID-19 operational pressures survey; Pharmacy Advice Audit reminder.

Providing the flu vaccination service in a COVID-safe way

In the flu vaccination season ahead, there will be a new challenge to overcome when providing the service: how to do so in a COVID-safe way?

Earlier this year, PSNC started discussions with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) on potential changes to the flu vaccination service which could support provision in a COVID-safe manner. These include proposed changes to allow provision of the service within areas of the pharmacy premises outside the consultation room and provision of the service off the pharmacy premises.

Our proposals are still being considered by NHSE&I, but we believe it is important that pharmacy contractors think about and plan for several different scenarios which **may** be open to them this year.

To help contractors and their teams with this, we have published a PSNC Briefing which:

- provides early guidance for contractors and their teams on the regular in-pharmacy vaccination service;
- highlights the potential scenarios being discussed that may provide additional opportunities to provide the community pharmacy flu vaccination service in other environments;
- lists considerations that contractors may need to reflect on ahead of the service launch; and
- highlights other resources which may support contractors to provide the service.

[Download PSNC Briefing 023/20: Early guidance on the 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service](#)

We strongly recommend that contractors use the information in the briefing document to plan how they may be able to provide a COVID-safe service this year.

Contractors must however note that the changes PSNC is seeking to the flu vaccination service, described in the briefing, have not yet been agreed and may never be agreed by NHSE&I. We will confirm any agreed changes as soon as possible, but in the meantime, the options presented should only be used for planning purposes.

COVID-19 operational pressures on independent pharmacies – June 2020 survey

PSNC is collecting data on an ongoing basis to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on pharmacies in England. As part of this, we are asking contractors running independent pharmacies to fill out a monthly 'Temperature Check' survey looking at the various pressures on their pharmacy, and the June 2020 survey is now open.

Head Offices of larger groups have been contacted separately to collect data via AIM and CCA. Please do not fill out this survey if you are part of a larger group.

If you run an independent pharmacy, we would be very grateful if you could [fill out the survey by clicking here](#). The questions can be downloaded in advance to help you collate your response before filling out the Survey Monkey questionnaire. The survey is open now until 23:59 on Monday 13th July.

Data will be aggregated to help understand the pressures independent pharmacies are facing, and individual responses will not be shared.

Have you completed the PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit?

We have had an exceptional response to our Pharmacy Advice Audit: thank you to the pharmacies who have taken part this week. We have decided to extend the participation deadline to make sure no pharmacy misses out on the chance to submit their data.

Pharmacy teams now have until **10th July 2020** to capture information about the advice they give to their patients and local communities, and submit that data to PSNC via PharmOutcomes.

[Further information and audit resources](#)

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:

Q. Will the cost of providing PPEs, hand gels, other ancillary items to enable safe practice on a daily basis be reimbursed with additional money or will contractors be expected to fund it from the existing funding 'uplifts'?

Ministers' immediate priority has been to address the significant cash flow pressure community pharmacies are under as a result of increased prescription numbers, extra staff costs from the increased dispensing activity, covering for sickness and the rise in locum rates, and other one-off costs. The advances of £300m, £50m and £20m over the past few months are in recognition of these costs.

PSNC has stressed to HM Government that cash advances are not enough to help many contractors to meet the rapidly increasing costs that they are facing as a result of this pandemic. We are continuing our dialogue with the Minister, with officials and with the NHS, and in the coming days we and the other national pharmacy organisations will be putting yet more evidence to them, trying to persuade them of the very urgent need for lasting emergency funding support, over and above the agreed global sum of £2.592 billion, for this vital part of the NHS.

Data has been collected from a wide range of contractor businesses to support our claim, including the costs of extra protective equipment required to operate under the current pandemic conditions.

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

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

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