

Pharmacy Bulletin



FRIDAY 27th March 2020

NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

White Bold Text = New Articles Added This Week.

For Action:

- **Closures and temporary changes to opening hours during COVID-19...[HERE](#)**
- **Annual Governance Returns UPDATE...[HERE](#)**
- **FLU Ordering 2020-21...[HERE](#)**

For Information:

- **Medicine Delivery Service...[HERE](#)**
- **NHS Online 111 CPCS Referrals...[HERE](#)**
- **New Guidance for Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists and Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians...[HERE](#)**
- **Dental Prescriptions...[HERE](#)**

Area Specific:

- **DEVON ONLY: RD&E change to first-line parenteral opioid for pain in palliation...[HERE](#)**



COVID-19: What You Need to Know...

It is expected that NHSE&I will issue updates to the community pharmacy guidance and pharmacy teams should ensure they keep up to date with the latest guidance on the [GOV.UK website](#).

ACTION:

- Community Pharmacy contractors are being asked to display a [patient information poster](#) (updated 17.03.2020) in the window of the pharmacy, along with a [list of countries](#) that have been affected by the virus.
- Read/Understand the COVID 19 SOP, [HERE](#).
- Notify us of any Temporary hours changes as per 'new ways of working guidance', page 10 of the SOP, [HERE](#).

MORE INFO:

- [Click Here](#) for the most recent updates from Public Health England (PHE) for health professionals
- For the latest NHSE&I briefing paper [Click Here](#)
- Re. PPE and more, read the NHS England/Improvement SOP, [HERE](#) (page 9)
- All primary care providers and their staff are included within the **NHS Key Worker** definition. Click [HERE](#) for more info.
- PHE have a range of resources contractors can utilise in communications with general public, [HERE](#).
- We are aware that PSNC have been publishing supportive guidance for pharmacy contractors, this is available via the following link: <https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/>

IMPORTANT: Rapid Tests for Use in Community Pharmacies or at Home...

Some manufacturers are selling products for the diagnosis of COVID-19 infection in community settings, such as pharmacies.

The current view by PHE is that use of these products is NOT ADVISED.

...To find out why and for more information, visit GOV.UK, [HERE](#).



Closures and Temporary Changes to Opening Hours during COVID-19:

Official guidance within the SOP, [HERE](#) (page 10)

Please can all contractors ensure they update the relevant Directory of Services (DoS) team for your area (i.e. Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset or Avon), update NHS UK and liaise with local GP practices and other relevant services.

-Thank you for all your support-

Medicines Delivery Service...

HM Government and the NHS are to ask around 1.5 million people who are at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 infection to stay at home for a period of 12 weeks. This process is being described as 'shielding' and people identified in the categories of patients that the Government would like to be shielded will receive a letter from the NHS in the next few days which says that the government is helping pharmacies to deliver prescriptions to them. Discussions are reaching conclusion about a new national community pharmacy medicines delivery service to support this group of shielded patients.

Full guidance will be issued to contractors ASAP and it is anticipated that this will commence shortly.

- Learn more about the delivery service via PSNC, [HERE](#).

NHS 111 Online CPCS Referrals...

From 22.03.2020, the NHS 111 Online service will be making Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) referrals to community pharmacies where people need urgent access to their usual prescribed medicines.

Whilst successfully piloted in the north west of England, plans to roll out the functionality across the whole of England have been brought forward in response to the huge surge in demand for NHS 111 services and the direction for people to use the online service in the first instance.

For contractors and their teams, the CPCS consultation should be conducted in the normal way, as the source of the referral – NHS 111 telephony service or NHS 111 Online – makes no difference to the process which the pharmacist needs to follow with the patient.

New Guidance for Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists and Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians...

This guidance is published on HEE's Coronavirus (Covid-19) Information for trainees web page, [HERE](#).

Up-to-date guidance and information from HEE, NHS England and NHS Improvement and the government is also available on [HEE's coronavirus \(COVID-19\) web page](#). This is to help health professionals, HEE staff and the public respond to coronavirus (COVID-19).



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Governance Deadlines ...

Considering the developing COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that this is already having on community pharmacies, a number of measures to help contractors have been implemented, as follows:

- **Pharmacy Quality Scheme:** the scheme will be postponed for three months and the period of delay will be kept under review. The released £18.75 million will be delivered to contractors for activity associated with the COVID-19 response.
- **Hepatitis C testing service:** the introduction of this Advanced Service will be delayed from April 2020 for at least three months.
- **Pharmacy Integration Fund pilots:** the three pilots announced last month (blood pressure testing; stop smoking support; and point of care testing) have been postponed until further notice.
- **Community Pharmacist Consultation Service:** existing pilots for GP referrals to the service will remain in place but will not be extended at this time.
- **Community pharmacy patient questionnaire (CPPQ) and pharmacy clinical audits:** NHSE&I will not act against contractors who have not completed these by 31st March 2020.
- **Practice leaflets:** NHSE&I will not act against contractors who have not updated their practice leaflets during the period of the pandemic.
- **Public health campaigns:** for the time being, these will only be focused on the national COVID-19 response.
- **Data Security and Protection Toolkit:** the current submission deadline has been amended from 31st March 2020 to 30th September 2020.
- The requirement for contractors to complete [the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Audit for 2019/20 had already been waived](#). The need for any local pharmacy Enhanced services is under Review - TBC.

New Services under discussion (TBC):

- **An NHS Urgent Medicines Supply Service:** This would be a service for patients whose GP practice is closed, allowing them to continue receiving their medicines without a prescription. The service will be switched on locally as needed – this has already happened in some locations.
- **A Medicines Delivery Service:** This would support vulnerable patients self-isolating at home. Details and funding are under negotiation.

Flu Ordering 2020-21

To reduce the risk of respiratory disease, protect those most vulnerable and reduce pressure on health services, please can you ensure that you have ordered sufficient stock of the recommended adult flu vaccines for 2020/21* to meet your local needs before the 31st March 2020. In summary these are:

- For over-65s aTIV
- For under-65s at risk, including pregnancy women either QIVc or QIVe.

* www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NHS-England-JCVI-advce-and-NHS-reimbursement-flu-vaccine-2020-21.pdf

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DEVON ONLY: RD&E change to first-line parenteral opioid for pain in palliation...

In response to the current shortage of diamorphine, from Monday 16th March, the RD&E will be changing to use of morphine first-line for patients requiring a new parenteral opioid for pain and/or entering the last few days of life.

Key points for primary care:

- This will include: just-in-case bags, syringe pumps AND ‘when required’ dosing (for palliation).
- This will affect use for both inpatients and supplies on discharge.
- Patients already commenced on diamorphine should be continued on it where possible (as limited stock remains).
- Specialist palliative care teams should be contacted for further advice, e.g. dose conversion.



Palliative care specialists across Devon are currently reviewing the situation and, following their meeting this week, further guidance will be provided. In the interim, please check with supplying pharmacies for diamorphine availability when issuing prescriptions and refer to the formulary pages for guidance on opioid use. Please also ensure that any paperwork, such as the PMAR, is amended to reflect the opioid issued in Just-in-Case bags/boxes. MORE INFO, [HERE](#).

Dental Prescriptions

We have had feedback from Dental Contractors that patients are unable to have their dental prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies – can we please remind you that Dentists can only prescribe products which are included in the Dental Prescribing Formulary (Part XVIIIA of the Drug Tariff) on an FP10D prescription, but should be dispensed in the normal way.

Licensed drugs (POMs, Ps, GSLs, foods, toiletries or cosmetics)		They can only prescribe products included in the Dental Prescribing Formulary (Part XVIIIA of the Drug Tariff) on an FP10D prescription.
Controlled Drugs (CDs)		They can only prescribe Controlled Drugs included in the Dental Prescribing Formulary (Part XVIIIA of the Drug Tariff) on an FP10D prescription.
Appliances or chemical reagents listed in Part IX		They can only prescribe if the appliance is listed generically in the Dental Prescribing Formulary.
Borderline Substances (ACBS)		They can only prescribe products included in the Dental Prescribing Formulary (Part XVIIIA of the Drug Tariff) on an FP10D prescription.

Friday 27th March 2020

NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

If you have any articles you would like us to include in the weekly bulletin, then please send to our generic mailbox - [HERE](#).

In addition, if you know of any colleagues who would like to receive a copy of the E-Communication each week please send an e-mail with their name, place of work and e-mail address to our generic [mailbox](#) and we will add them to our distribution list.

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Please see our [website](#) “NHS England South West (South) Community pharmacy” for more information and any blank templates, forms and documents. For reference available documents are, Contact Details (UPDATED MARCH 2019); Forms for requesting changes to Core or Supplementary hours; Blank unplanned closure form; links to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs); links to LPCs; MUR guidance, MUR/NMS blank templates; Significant Incident reporting form and Serious Difficulty application forms...

...Also available via the website – Translation & Interpretation Service Guidance...