



Daily Update

Thursday 17th September 2020

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

In today's update: digital guide to the flu vaccination service; priority COVID-19 testing; Hep C Testing Service guidance.

New Flu Vaccination Service 2020/21 Digital Guide

PSNC has today published a digital guide to the Flu Vaccination Service for community pharmacy contractors.

The 30-minute guide features David Onuoha, PSNC's Service Development Manager, providing an overview of the service requirements, highlighting the changes to the service for the 2020/21 season and signposting contractors to the variety of reference sources available. David covers a number of key issues such as training, service set up, patient eligibility, consent, provision of the service in a COVID-safe manner, and the agreed additional flexibilities to support service provision this season, as well as outlining the funding available and how to claim payment.

The guide aims to offer busy contractors and pharmacists an alternative way to ensure they are aware of what is available to support them with the provision of the service and complements the other information and guidance available on our [**Flu Vaccination Service Hub**](#).

[Watch the digital guide](#)

Accessing priority C-19 testing

Pharmacy contractors will be aware from recent media reports of the challenges the NHS Test and Trace service is currently facing, with increased demand being seen for COVID-19 tests for symptomatic individuals. PSNC has also received reports from contractors that pharmacy staff members with COVID-19 symptoms have been unable to access testing.

Community pharmacists and their staff are classed as [**essential workers who are prioritised for testing**](#) and employers can refer essential workers for testing if they are self-isolating because either they or members of their household have coronavirus symptoms.

They can do this by uploading the names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers to the secure employer referral portal.

[Find out more about using the employer referral portal](#)

Contractor guidance on the Hep C Testing Service

The Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service is the second new Advanced Service to be added to the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). The service was originally trailed as part of the [5-year CPCF agreement](#) and its implementation was delayed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The service launched on the 1st September 2020.

PSNC has published a Briefing providing guidance for community pharmacy contractors and their teams on the Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service.

[Download the PSNC Briefing here](#)

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:

Q. Are health and social care staff working in sheltered housing accommodation, for example, warden controlled flats, eligible to receive the Flu Vaccination Advanced Service?

No. Sheltered housing providers are not regulated by the Care Quality Commission and are therefore not required to be registered, so their staff do not fall within the definition set out in the service specification. However, if a registered domiciliary care provider has staff that attend sheltered housing accommodation to support patients, then these staff will be eligible for the Flu Vaccination Service.

Q. Are health and social care staff working in extra-care housing (also called assisted living) eligible to receive the Flu Vaccination Advanced Service?

Yes. Unlike sheltered housing, extra care housing is regulated by the Care Quality Commission. Therefore, if staff are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza these staff would be eligible for the Flu Vaccination Service.

Extra-care housing (also called assisted living) offers more support than sheltered housing but still allows clients to live independently. Clients live in a self-contained flat, with their own front door, but meals may be provided. Personal care and support services are generally available on-site 24 hours a day. Some extra care housing is available to buy or rent privately and some is available from the local council following a needs assessment. This type of housing isn't available in all areas.

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

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