



Daily Update

Friday 18th 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: GP CPCS referrals to commence; Boxing Day 2020 hours; Test and Trace assessments.

GP referrals to CPCS to commence this autumn

At its September 2020 meeting, PSNC agreed proposals that general practice referrals into the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) should commence this autumn.

This decision follows recent negotiations with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), who have been running a pilot of the service as part of the Pharmacy Integration Programme.

Work is now underway to plan the roll out of the service, which will engage general practices across England, supporting them to make referrals of patients to community pharmacists for minor illness consultations.

Commenting on the announcement, made at the 2020 Local Pharmaceutical Committee Conference, Simon Dukes, PSNC CEO said:

"The commencement of this additional referral route into the CPCS will represent a significant milestone in the implementation of the service developments agreed in the 5-Year Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework.

"The success of this addition to the service will be built on the development of strong relationships between community pharmacy and GP colleagues, but this will also build the platform for longer-term relationships between the two professions and that has to be a good thing."

Further information on the rollout plans will be published in due course.

Boxing Day 2020 Opening Hours

Contractors are reminded that this year Boxing Day (26 December 2020) is a Saturday, a normal day for the purposes of community pharmacy opening hours. Therefore, pharmacies must open on the 26th for any core and supplementary hours. The substitute bank holiday for Boxing Day this year is Monday 28 December, when contractors do not have to open.

If contractors want to reduce any supplementary hours, for example, to close early, they must give notice to NHSE&I at least 3 months in advance, unless NHSE&I agrees otherwise.

So, the last day to give notice for 26 December 2020, for any guaranteed reduction in supplementary hours, is on **26 September 2020**, and NHSE&I must receive the notification, for example, by email, on or before that date.

[Read more here](#)

Test and trace – disagreeing with assessments and escalating the case

Contractors are reminded that if they disagree with an assessment or an identification of a recent close contact by an NHS Test and Trace contact tracer, they should ask to speak to his or her supervisor, so that the case can be escalated and reviewed.

NHS Test and Trace aims to help trace recent close contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies these people that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus. Therefore, if one member of pharmacy staff tests positive for coronavirus, a contact tracer may contact the pharmacy and assess whether other pharmacy staff members should be asked to self-isolate. The result may be that the pharmacy has to close.

[Read more 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. Where can I find information on how to operate my pharmacy in relation to COVID-19?

A COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure and guidance to support community pharmacy teams can be found on the [NHSE&I website](#). Please note that this document is subject to frequent changes and updates, so please ensure you are always referring to the most up to date version and are also referring to the separate updates for additional information.

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

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