



Daily Update

Monday 21st 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: COVID-secure preparations and Part 1 PQS; SMR guidance; CPCF health campaigns agreed for 2020/21.

Completing COVID-19 secure preparations and the Part 1 PQS

Pharmacy contractors and their teams will be aware from national media reports of the increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections and the actions being taken by the Governments across the UK to tackle local outbreaks.

This morning at a Government press briefing, Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer and Sir Patrick Vallance, Chief Scientific Adviser, highlighted the risks to the nation that this increase in infections brought. This has enhanced media and public speculation that new COVID-related restrictions will be introduced in England in the near future.

This provides a context in which it is of the utmost importance that contractors have put in place appropriate measures to make their pharmacies COVID-secure and have undertaken appropriate measures to seek to protect their staff.

Those measures include the elements set out in the [Part 1 Pharmacy Quality Scheme \(PQS\) 2020/21](#) checklist, in particular the offer and, where accepted, completion of individual COVID-19 risk assessments for each member of staff. Guidance on how to undertake individual risk assessments is available from several organisations, with links to these available in our [COVID-19 hub](#).

Undertaking all the elements of the Part 1 PQS checklist will allow the contractor to make a claim for a payment of £1,630 via the NHSBSA's [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) and that also qualifies the contractor to participate in the [Part 2 PQS](#), as completion of the Part 1 scheme is the Gateway requirement for the Part 2 scheme. If you have not completed all parts of Part 1 and declared completion, you will not be eligible for Part 2.

Up until 5th September 2020, just over 6,000 contractors had submitted a claim for the Part 1 scheme to the NHSBSA, meaning that around 5,000 contractors have still to do so.

SMR guidance includes referrals to New Medicine Service

New [NHS guidance](#) for [Primary Care Networks \(PCNs\)](#) on the provision of Structured Medication Reviews (SMR) includes referrals being made to the community pharmacy New Medicine Service.

The guidance has been published by NHS England and NHS Improvement to support PCN clinical pharmacy teams with implementation of the structured medication review and optimisation service requirements in the [Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Specification for 2020/21](#). PCNs are asked to proactively consider all aspects of the guidance when planning, implementing and delivering the service.

[Read the full story for further information](#)

CPCF health campaigns agreed for 2020/21

Each year, pharmacies are required to participate in up to six public health campaigns at the request of NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). The topics of these campaigns are agreed by NHSE&I and PSNC.

At the start of 2020/21 we agreed that the campaigns would be suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have now agreed that community pharmacies will need to participate in two health campaigns during the rest of 2020/21, the first of which will be the annual campaign which encourages eligible people to get vaccinated against flu.

[Read the full story for further information](#)

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. Am I required to be MUR accredited to provide NMS?

A. No. As of the 30th June 2020, changes were made to the knowledge and skills requirements for pharmacists that removed the need for a pharmacist providing the NMS to have an MUR certificate. This change was made due to the forthcoming decommissioning of the MUR service at the end of March 2021. Pharmacists wanting to provide the MUR service still need to have an MUR certificate.

To provide the NMS, pharmacists now only have to show they have the necessary knowledge and skills to provide the service and they are required to complete and sign the NMS self-assessment form to declare this. The completed form should be kept as a record by the community pharmacy contractor.

Pharmacists that are preparing to provide NMS, who have not previously completed the former version of the self-assessment form should complete the [updated NMS self-assessment form](#).

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

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14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: info@psnc.org.uk