



Daily Update

Wednesday 23rd 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: compulsory face coverings; further delivery service extension in local outbreak areas; PMR and clinical system integration rolled out; Stoptober campaign.

Face coverings become compulsory for retail staff

Tomorrow, it becomes compulsory for community pharmacy staff to wear a [face covering](#) in areas that are open to the public and where they come, or are likely to come, within close contact of a member of the public.

However, there is existing Public Health England guidance on the [wearing of face masks](#) in community pharmacy, for staff in both clinical and non-clinical roles, which is applicable to all primary and community health care providers in England.

PSNC information on the use of facemasks is available on our [PPE webpage](#).

Pandemic Delivery Service: further extension for patients in local outbreak areas

Due to the ongoing local COVID-19 outbreaks in various areas across England, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has decided that the pandemic delivery service requirements **should continue to apply from 24th September 2020 until 5th October 2020, but only for shielded patients who live in the following local outbreak areas:**

- 8 wards within North East Blackburn; and
- Leicester City.

Contractors located in the local outbreak areas will continue to receive the Essential service payment.

[View full information about the local outbreak areas](#)

Two-way PMR and clinical system integration rolled out

Pharmacy IT suppliers have been developing their systems over the last couple of years to allow them to integrate core community pharmacy systems with others. One such development is now being experienced by pharmacy teams using the Proscript Connect PMR system and PharmOutcomes, with information input by the pharmacy team automatically flowing between both of those systems.

This innovative two-way integration is enabling pharmacists to provide the NHS flu vaccination service without switching between ProScript Connect and PharmOutcomes during consultations. After the vaccine is administered, the product can be pre-populated in the patient's PMR record, based on the consultation data entered into PharmOutcomes.

During the first peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the integration between the two systems also made the process of identifying Shielded patients within the PMR system easier, pulling data from the NHS Summary Care Record (SCR) shielded patient flag via PharmOutcomes one-click SCR functionality.

[Learn more here](#)

Stoptober Campaign Commences

The Stoptober campaign will run from 1st October to 31st October 2020, but as with previous campaigns, it will begin with a 'rally' phase which aims to encourage smokers to prepare for quitting on 1st October. This year the campaign will be positioned as part of the new '[Better Health](#)' brand.

Public Health England (PHE) has released resources to support promotion of the Stoptober campaign, which can be downloaded now from its [Campaign Resource Centre](#).

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. Can a homeless person have an NHS flu vaccination?

A homeless person can have an NHS flu vaccination if they fall into one of the eligible groups for the Flu Vaccination Service. Contractors should also consider the following:

- The homeless person would need to come into the pharmacy, or come to an agree off-site location that has been assessed by the contractor as suitable to provide the pharmaceutical service for their vaccine;
- No fixed abode (NFA) can be written on the record form in the patient's address section;
- If a homeless person is registered with a GP practice, notification would need to be sent to the GP practice if appropriate providing as much identifying information as the pharmacy can provide to allow the GP practice to match the information to the relevant person (some areas have specific homeless patient services to allow GP registration and some encourage registration at regular GP practices); and
- If a homeless person is not registered with a GP, it will not be possible for the notification to be sent to a GP practice, but the service can still be provided to the person. Pharmacy staff could encourage the person to register with a practice and explain how to do this.

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

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