



Daily Update

Friday 20th November 2020

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

In today's update: flu vaccinations permitted for all over 50s from December; becoming and maintaining HLP status; pharmacy NHSmail account upgrade.

50-64 year old flu vacs to start 1st December

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has today announced that community pharmacy contractors and general practices **will be able to vaccinate 50 to 64 year olds against flu from Tuesday 1st December 2020.**

This follows the Government's announcement earlier this year that the 2020 flu vaccination programme would be extended with the addition of this new cohort, so it would become the largest programme ever undertaken in England. So far this flu season, contractors have already surpassed the number of patients vaccinated in previous years, having administered nearly 1.9m doses, with demand for flu vaccination from eligible patients still being very high.

This announcement allows contractors to vaccinate this group of patients under the **flu vaccination Advanced service** from 1st December 2020.

Availability of flu vaccine

We know contractors are keen to meet the continuing high demand for flu vaccination from the existing eligible cohorts and the additional 50-64 year old cohort, but the current availability of vaccine is still less than required to meet the immediate demand.

Deliveries of the Department of Health and Social Care's flu vaccination stock is now starting to arrive, with the majority of the manufacturers making their first deliveries of this stock this week. The DHSC stock will continue to be delivered over the next few months. The DHSC stock is being made available to contractors via pharmaceutical wholesalers and orders should continue to be placed with the wholesalers that are supplying this stock.

[Learn more about the DHSC flu vaccine stock and its permitted usage](#)

Becoming and maintaining HLP status to meet the new requirements

The Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) requirements will become part of the new Terms of Service for all pharmacies from 1st January 2021. NHS England and NHS Improvement's (NHSE&I) regulations guidance, due to be published shortly, will set out the full requirements for compliance, but contractors can also find the details in our **[HLP website section](#)**.

To support contractors, PSNC have published [additional resources](#) to provide supplementary guidance and tools to assist with either implementation or ongoing review of the HLP status.

While most pharmacies in England have previously met the Healthy Living Pharmacy Level 1 (HLP) requirements, following local initiatives with commissioners or the Pharmacy Quality Scheme, the transition to Terms of Service will require all contractors to carry out some actions.

[View full details of the actions required](#)

Pharmacy NHSmail accounts are being upgraded

The NHSmail team are upgrading pharmacy NHSmail accounts in November and December 2020, to further improve the NHSmail service. The upgrade will enable pharmacy NHSmail users to utilise a range of Microsoft Office 365 apps and features, some of which they have had access to before the account upgrade.

PSNC has produced an [NHSmail upgrade factsheet](#) describing the upgrade process and outlining the improvements being made to pharmacy personal NHSmail accounts – including new Microsoft Teams functionality.

[Read more about the pharmacy NHSmail upgrade](#)

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