



Daily Update

Tuesday 12th January 2021

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

In today's update: reimbursement of 2020 PPE expenditure; keeping pharmacy staff safe; pharmacies piloting PCR tests; free PPE scheme to be extended.

Reimbursement of 2020 PPE expenditure

With the personal protective equipment (PPE) claim tab on the NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal due to go live **tomorrow morning (Wednesday 13th January)**, the PSNC website has been updated to provide more detailed information on the process and submitting a claim. The simplified alternative claim spreadsheet for multiples is also due for release at the same time. The FAQs are available on our [Personal protective equipment, staff safety and security webpage](#).

PSNC remains very conscious that the delays will cause problems for contractors and are continuing working through this with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). We will update contractors on this as soon as possible.

Keeping pharmacy staff safe

As a third lockdown has begun, PSNC wants to advise contractors of some ways to try and keep their teams safe and their premises secure.

We are aware that many pharmacies are struggling to manage staff shortages (due to illness or the need for self-isolation), with some working long hours to meet demand. Pharmacy teams are also having to manage patients' expectations as people are having to queue to get into a pharmacy and wait longer than usual. Unfortunately, there have been reports of a few incidents where members of the public have been abusive to pharmacy staff.

PSNC would like to remind contractors that, for safety, they should ensure there is a minimum of two pharmacy staff at the premises at all times and not operate with a pharmacist alone due to staff having to leave unexpectedly. We would also like to draw attention to guidance issued by the Metropolitan Police for community pharmacies earlier in the pandemic, which still applies. The guidance offers advice on security of premises, and safety and wellbeing of staff and customers in the current circumstances.

[Security advice for pharmacies during the pandemic \(summary\)](#)

[Security advice for pharmacies during the pandemic](#)

[Key contacts for police services](#)

Pharmacies begin piloting COVID-19 testing kit provision

As part of efforts to test the operational feasibility of providing such a service nationally, selected community pharmacies in Bradford are currently participating in a four-week pilot to provide PCR swab tests for eligible symptomatic patients.

The pilot, which started on 4th January, has been developed by NHS Test and Trace, working with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire. Each test will be given to a representative of the symptomatic patient, with the test self-administered at home and then sent off via a Royal Mail priority postbox.

Free PPE ordering scheme extended until June

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has confirmed that the Government has decided to extend the provision of supplies of free COVID-19 PPE beyond the end of March 2021.

DHSC's [PPE portal](#) can continue to be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 PPE they need and contractors should ensure they have registered for this.

Free PPE will now be available to the end of June 2021. In addition, the scheme will be reviewed again in April to determine the provision of PPE beyond the end of June.

Further information and guidance is available via the [PSNC website](#) or via the [DHSC PPE portal page](#).

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. When will COVID-19 vaccinations start to be offered to community pharmacy staff?

The NHSE&I guidance says that by mid-January NHS Trusts (including acute, mental health, community and ambulance trusts) will be established as hospital hubs with a responsibility for COVID-19 vaccine delivery to all health and care staff. They will provide vaccinations 7 days a week to complete vaccination of all frontline health and social care workers as quickly as possible, with the expectation to have made significant progress by the first week of February.

It is therefore not possible to specify a time when all pharmacy teams will be offered vaccination, but the local process to undertake vaccination of this cohort is starting in earnest now.

Q. How will COVID-19 vaccination of healthcare staff be coordinated at a local level?

In the coming days, hospital hubs will be coordinating local efforts to identify and prioritise staff, including those in primary care (including community pharmacy). They will work with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), who will be responsible for collating information on eligible staff in primary care. CCGs will share information on the number of staff in these groups to help inform planning.

Many LPCs have already undertaken work with their CCGs and contractors to collate data on the number of pharmacy staff eligible for vaccination, but if this has not happened in your area, you may be asked to provide such information over the next few weeks.

More information is available in NHSE&I's [additional operational guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination of frontline health and social care workers](#).

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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