



Daily Update

Thursday 14th 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: first pharmacy COVID-19 vaccination sites open; lateral flow test orders; DHSC flu vac stock for private patients; support for domestic abuse victims; BMJ Best Practice.

Community pharmacy sites join COVID-19 vaccination efforts

Six community pharmacies have today become the first pharmacy sites to administer COVID-19 vaccinations as part of the NHS vaccination programme.

These pharmacies, operating under the terms of a locally Enhanced service, have been chosen to support vaccination efforts by local NHS teams. The sites have all had to show how they can ensure that significant volumes of patients can be vaccinated whilst maintaining social distancing procedures.

The group of four independents and two multiples will be followed by approximately 200 other community pharmacies who will open the doors on their COVID-19 vaccination sites before the end of the month.

PSNC believes that many thousands of community pharmacies could support the COVID-19 vaccination programme alongside the mass and local vaccination sites and we are working with others including the NHS to scope what would be feasible.

[Read the full news story](#)

Ordering lateral flow tests

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded to place their orders for lateral flow testing kits for their patient-facing staff. Contractors should log onto the [PCSE portal](#) to place an order. Please complete this as soon as possible, and by COP Sunday 17th January to start to receive deliveries from the following week. As each box contains 25 tests, one box of kits should be ordered for each member of staff.

Those who placed an order before the initial deadline of 30th December will receive their delivery by 19th January. Deliveries for subsequent orders will be arranged as soon as possible after they have been placed.

Finally, a quick reminder that reporting results (positive, negative or void) is a statutory requirement. Staff should report the results of their tests as soon as possible on the [NHS Digital platform](#).

DHSC flu vac stock: use for private patients

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that **from tomorrow (15th January 2021)**, community pharmacies can offer a flu vaccination using DHSC centrally procured vaccine to private patients or those within occupational health schemes (Group C patients in the [DHSC guidance on use of centrally procured vaccines](#)). This decision follows PSNC's request to DHSC for such a change in the guidance.

Contractors are advised to continue to provide flu vaccinations for NHS eligible cohorts, as some patients may still present later in the season, such as the 50-64 year-old cohort and newly pregnant women.

New scheme launched to support domestic abuse victims

The Home Office is implementing a new scheme to help victims of domestic abuse access support safely, and is encouraging community pharmacy teams to get involved.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, ability, socio-economic status, sexuality or background. This is why the Home Office considers pharmacies, used by people from all walks of life, as a suitable setting for the Ask for ANI scheme.

[Learn more about 'Ask for ANI'](#)

BMJ Best Practice available to pharmacy professionals

BMJ Best Practice is a clinical decision support tool that provides healthcare professionals quick and easy access to the latest evidence-based information to assist with making diagnosis, understanding prognosis, considering treatment information and advising on preventative options. The information is updated daily and is linked to international guidelines and UK clinical information sources such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the British National Formulary (BNF) and the British National Formulary for Children (BNFC).

Access to the BMJ Best Practice is provided by Health Education England (HEE) via an OpenAthens login. Community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians involved in providing NHS services in England can obtain an NHS OpenAthens account via an online form on the NICE website.

[Find out more about BMJ Best Practice](#)

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

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