

# GOOD TO KNOW

## Weekly update

### PPE updated guidance

The national COVID-19 infection prevention and control recommendations issued by the UK public health bodies were updated at the end of last week; this includes further changes to the recommendations on use of personal protective equipment (PPE), which will impact on community pharmacy service provision, including the flu vaccination Advanced service.

[COVID-19: Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings – Infection prevention and control recommendations](#)

This supersedes the previous guidance issued on 18th June 2020 and separate advice on the use of PPE when administering vaccines, issued by PHE and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I).



### Patient returns

This haul was returned to a Northampton pharmacy by a patient. The unopened boxes of Prograf add up to £5519.70. The patient is uncoded and orders his own medication. a concern both clinically and financially.

### *Disposal of unwanted medicines*

The contractual requirement for community pharmacies to accept unwanted/out-of-date/waste medicines for disposal from the public remains an important service during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it does bring potential risks for pharmacy teams. PSNC worked with the National Pharmacy Association, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group to produce the joint guidance for community pharmacies in England.





## Keep up to date

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with PSNC hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)

## PSNC asks contractors to reconsider free provision of non-CPCF services

The call from PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes follows reports from contractors who are increasingly being asked to pick up primary care work which would normally fall outside of pharmacies' funded services. [Catch up here](#)

## PSNC negotiations and CPCF update

PSNC has today published an update on its ongoing negotiations related to funding and services, setting out the work it is doing to seek funding increases for community pharmacy contractors- <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-negotiations-and-cpcf-services-update/>

This guidance has been compiled to help contractors determine how best to safely handle returned unwanted medicines at this time. It contains a list of considerations and a suggested procedure, as well as a checklist to work through.

[Guidance on dealing with patient-returned / unwanted medicines](#)

## The Wright Review- What next for LPCs?

On Monday 17th August, *Pharmacy Magazine* and *P3pharmacy* hosted a pilot webcast to discuss The Wright Review – What Next for LPCs? The webcast is now available on demand- [Watch now](#)

## LPC AGM

Our AGM is on 17th September, 2020 at 12 noon. At the moment due to Covid-19 restrictions physical meetings are not possible, but the requirements for the AGM still apply. We are therefore holding a virtual AGM. For details on how to join please go to our website <https://psnc.org.uk/northamptonshire-and-milton-keynes-lpc/our-events/northamptonshire-and-mk-lpc-agm/>

You will also find our accounts and Annual Report on this page or look out for an email sent to your pharmacy (CCA members version is sent direct to a pre nominated person in the organisation).

## Pharmacy opening times August Bank Holiday

MILTON KEYNES:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/east-of-england/nhs-england-and-nhs-improvement-east-of-englands-work/pharmacy-information/>

NORTHANTS:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/midlands/nhs-england-and-nhs-improvement-midlands-work/bank-holiday-pharmacy-opening-times/>

## PQS

Full Part 2 PQS details published.

Following PSNC publication of [initial details on the Part 2 Pharmacy Quality Scheme \(PQS\)](#) for 2020/21 in early August, the full details are now available to pharmacy contractors in the [September 2020 Drug Tariff](#)

Learn more about Part 2: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/full-part-2-pqs-details-published/>

A new approach to allocating the funding is being introduced in this scheme, with each domain having points allocated to it, but these vary dependent on the prescription volume of the contractor. Find out for the new system works: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-volume-related-pqs-payment-structure-introduced/>

Please note that the table in the advance copy of the DT is currently incomplete and therefore may not make much sense! This will be corrected over the weekend.

It is clear that this is our first shared incentive and greater collaboration during flu season will be required to maximise the payment potential.



## Hepatitis C testing service

The Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service was added to the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) in 2020, commencing on 1st September. The introduction of this new Advanced Service was originally trailed in the [5-year CPCF agreement](#), but its planned introduction in April 2020 was delayed by five months because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The service is focused on provision of point of care testing (POCT) for Hepatitis C (Hep C) antibodies to people who inject drugs (PWIDs), i.e. individuals who inject illicit drugs, e.g. steroids or heroin, but who haven't yet moved to the point of accepting treatment for their substance use. Where people test positive for Hep C antibodies, they will be referred for a confirmatory test and treatment, where appropriate. Any pharmacy that meets the service requirements can provide the service. Read more [HERE](#)

## Flu vaccination advanced service

At this stage, contractors are advised that we still expect the service specification and the national Patient Group Direction to be published by the Bank Holiday weekend, ready for the service to commence next Tuesday.

## Tokens for SSP

Pharmacy contractors are reminded that when using tokens to submit SSP claims, the tokens must be placed in the [red separator](#) on top of the relevant paid/exempt prescription bundle in a secure manner (for example, by securing the red separator to the main prescription bundle with an elastic band to avoid any tokens and paper prescriptions from slipping out of the separator during transit) before submitting to NHSBSA in the usual way. [READ MORE HERE](#)