

GOOD TO KNOW

Weekly update

Ethnicity

In a letter of 30th September 2020, GPs were reminded by their contracts team at NHSE&I of plans to introduce a new regulatory requirement in January 2021 for practices to record ethnicity data where this is provided. In the meantime, all NHS organisations are asked to proactively review and ensure the completeness of patient ethnicity data by no later than 31 December. You may be asked by GPs when notifying flu vaccination activity why ethnicity is not recorded. I can confirm that this is NOT a requirement in our notification to GPs.

GPhC guidance

On 1 October 2020, the new GPhC [requirements for the education and training of pharmacy support staff](#) took effect, which the GPhC says are intended to provide assurance to everyone that pharmacy support staff have the training they need to carry out their roles effectively. Full details can be found on the [PSNC website](#).



All C-19 PPE now available FoC via portal

Pharmacy contractors are reminded that the Government's PPE portal can now be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) they need; the supplies will be provided free of charge.

So far, a minority of contractors have registered on the portal, so many pharmacy teams are yet to take up the offer of free of charge PPE supplies; PSNC encourages contractors to register on the portal as soon as possible.

Even though your NHSmail shared mailbox has recently been updated to have the new, **shorter primary email address**, pharmacy data was uploaded to the portal some weeks ago, before this change was made to NHSmail by NHS Digital. Contractors must therefore **use the original shared mailbox email address**

[nhspharmacy.location.pharmacynameODScode@nhs.net](#) for registration on the portal. Emails sent to a pharmacy's original NHSmail shared mailbox address will still be delivered to the mailbox. [Visit the Portal](#)



Sorting prescriptions

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) issues contractors with three sets of red separators each month to sort certain paper prescription forms into their relevant exempt, paid or old charge rate groups. Only prescription items meeting the red separator criteria set out below should be included in the red separator.

Full details can be found on the [PSNC website](#).

Our AGM

Every year LPCs are required, under the LPC Constitution, to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) when the LPC Annual Report and LPC accounts are presented to their contractors. There is also a requirement to have a contractor vote to approve the accounts.

While the current COVID-19 restrictions prevent physical meetings, the AGM and contractor voting on the accounts had to be done virtually.

The accounts were unanimously accepted. You can view our Report [here](#)

Gluten Free

Razia Wilson, Contract Manager NHSE&I advised this week the extended agreement to offer Gluten Free Food Supply under NHS prescriptions within Northamptonshire comes to an end on 30th September 2020. Her email served as a final reminder that NHS England and Improvement will not renew the service after 30 September 2020.

Northamptonshire CCG have been made aware this service comes to an end on 30th September 2020.

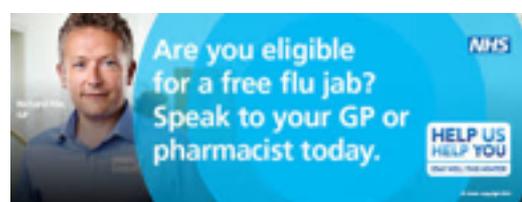
Any product offered to patient and the public under the Gluten Free Food Supply will not be reimbursed by NHS England and Improvement after 30th September 2020.

Please note the CCG and LPC were not made aware of this decision before the emails were sent to pharmacies. We have both expressed our disappointment in the lack of notice. We were not informed that after the 6 month extension ended there would be no GF service in Northamptonshire. There was no indication of this in the extension letters sent to you in April.

Flu vaccination for 50-64-year olds

Contractors are reminded that as part of the further extension to the vaccine programme in 2020/21, people in the 50-64-year old age group **cannot** be vaccinated until an announcement is made by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). This is likely to occur in November or December. The decision on commencing vaccination of this group of patients will be informed by the availability of vaccine and progress made with vaccinating the other target groups.

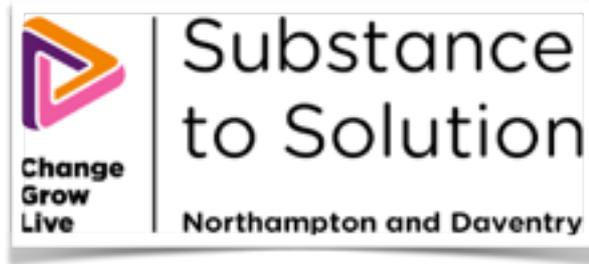
This approach is being taken to ensure that those who are most at risk of flu are vaccinated first. Patients aged 50-64 and who are in one of the clinical at-risk groups which are eligible for the flu vaccination can have their flu vaccination prior to the announcement. Full details can be found on the [PSNC website](#).





There have been plenty of good news stories about how community pharmacy has been helping our local communities throughout the pandemic. Ensuring that patients have access to the medicines they need has been critical – and this can be supported through services such as electronic Repeat Dispensing – and pharmacies have had to find new ways of working to cope with increased demand for medicines and advice.

I want to pass on special thanks to [Ar Chemist](#) in Wellingborough, [Boots Rushden](#) and [Berrymoor Pharmacy](#). Alison Snelling, Services Manager at S2S Northamptonshire and her colleague clinician Verona Govender are particularly grateful for your continued support and going the extra mile to find ways around the many obstacles that C19 has presented. Your help and contribution to team work did not go unnoticed .



As an organisation CGL is currently reviewing the situation in terms of some return to normality in every sense and are awaiting further guidance at a national level. We were grateful for an agreement reached which saw our remuneration held between February and September. CGL have reviewed all their service users that switched to 14 day collections and made some changes where we needed to in terms of safety and risk management so that they could ensure they had the most suitable collection regime. At the moment there is no mass plan to switch everyone back (to the situation pre March) and there is a real appetite to do some learning around what service users have experienced and whether there have been some positive changes for them. Most service users are now on a take away 7 day collection except the most vulnerable and unstable. CGL do not have reports/ anecdotes of for example, clients selling substances. Please let me know if you know otherwise.

We expect rates of supervised consumption to remain lower than pre pandemic, but report a significant increase in clients coming into the service. This does not seem to have caused access problems in community pharmacy.

Prescriptions will now be posted out to pharmacies from CGL using recorded delivery. Please inform CGL immediately if items are missing. (01604 211304).



Wendy Burke, Section Manager for ARC-MK (contract for prescribing in substance misuse MK no longer lies with Compass but with Arc) echoes the situation described above re: supervised consumption. Please always sign for receipt of your prescriptions so that the audit trail is maintained.

Aspiration payment

The upcoming deadline to claim for a Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2020/21 aspiration payment, ends on **9th October 2020** at 11:59pm. I have reminded contractors in our LPC area that the declaration window is open and to claim for an aspiration payment if you wish to do so but have not done so yet.

You should submit the aspiration payment declaration at the earliest opportunity if you wish to receive payment. The declaration must be submitted through the Manage Your Service platform found at <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login>.

The report I use to determine which pharmacies have yet to make a declaration was current as of 29/09/20, however, pharmacies may since have submitted their declaration.

The aspiration payment is optional for pharmacy contractors and choosing not to make a declaration will not impact on the pharmacy contractor's ability to claim a payment for the PQS 2020/21 Part 2 in February 2021.

In addition, to qualify for a PQS Part 2 payment, and prevent the reconciliation of the aspiration payment, contractors must have submitted a declaration for PQS Part 1 on the Manage Your Service portal by 11:59pm on 29th January 2021.

Primary Care Networks

Although general practice will be at the heart of PCNs, NHS England has said that it wants clinical pharmacists (employed by the networks) and community pharmacists to be engaged in the work of the networks.

It is important that community pharmacy teams are fully engaged in the work of PCNs, to optimise their provision of services to patients and because the future development of locally commissioned services will be influenced by PCNs.

We now have 23 such networks in our LPC area and need to identify a community pharmacy representative to act as a community pharmacy lead in each network. The networks currently without a Pharmacy Lead are **Ascent**, MK covering Woburn Sands (Asplands), Fishermead and Walnut Tree practices and **Red Kite**, Northamptonshire (Eskdail Surgery, Linden Medical Centre, Weavers Medical Centre, Woodsend Medical Centre) and **Triangle** (Gt Oakley, Desborough and Rothwell).

If you are interested in being involved with the local PCN and are willing to represent community pharmacy, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting Anne-Marie on 07889412690 or email: chiefofficer@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk

Remember that engagement with your PCN Pharmacy Lead is essential in order to claim domains 4 and 5 of PQS Part 2 2020/21. <https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/pharmacy-quality-scheme/pqs-2020-21-part-2/>

No lead=no points

The LPC are in a position to support the Leads and will be shortly announcing details of a webinar This webinar is designed to re-engage with PCN leads and pharmacy contractors, briefing them on the current changes and allowing them the opportunity to share information and connect as part of the local pharmacy community. The webinar will be interactive, requiring participants to respond in real time to activities and take part in group discussions in virtual break-out rooms.

Community Pharmacist Consultation Service

Any pharmacist meeting the requirements for CPCS provision can register to provide the service. In the year since the advanced service was launched, it is now firmly embedded. Work is now underway to plan the roll out of engaging general practices across England, supporting them to make referrals of patients to community pharmacists for minor illness consultations. You may have seen this referred to as GP-CPCS.

In both Milton Keynes and Northants, we are fortunate in that receptionists at our surgeries have been trained in care navigation. An implementation plan is key which will include the practice pharmacists and also the community pharmacists. Ahead of NHSE&I planned go live in November, the LPC are laying the foundations by communicating with NHSE&I, CCGs, PCN Clinical Directors and clinical pharmacists.

Please let me know if you have had a positive conversation about GP-CPCS with your local practice(s). They will receive a toolkit from NHSE&I ahead of the roll out.

There is an excellent video [here](#) describing a successful implementation in one of the pilot sites. Please take a look and start having those important conversations. The success of this addition to the service will be built on the development of strong relationships between community pharmacy and GP colleagues, but this will also build the platform for longer-term relationships between the two professions and that has to be a good thing.

As always you can contact the LPC as follows:

Tel: 07889412690 email: chiefofficer@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk

<https://psnc.org.uk/northamptonshire-and-milton-keynes-lpc/>