

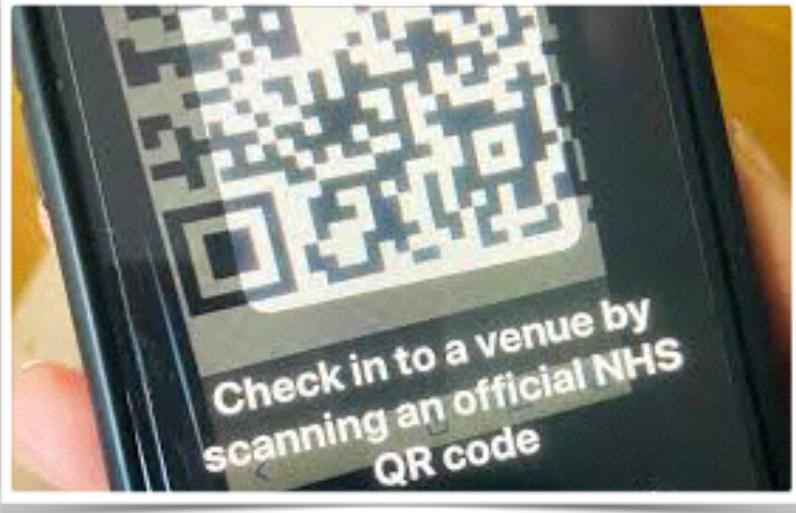
GOOD TO KNOW

Flu vaccines

Please can we remind you to communicate with your local GP practice regarding the availability of flu vaccines in your pharmacy. We are aware that you are receiving many phone calls from patients enquiring whether you have vaccines in stock and this is being added to by the GP practices who are out of stock advising patients to speak to their pharmacy.

Government flu stock

As community pharmacy contractors will know, this year the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has secured an additional supply of flu vaccines from four manufacturers. Most of these supplies are not stock that would ordinarily be available in the UK, as they are the result of vaccine suppliers running their production cycles for longer than they had originally planned. As a consequence of this, these extra vaccines will be



Covid 19

Test and trace discrepancies

Pharmacy leaders have written to Ministers and NHS officials, with an urgent warning that NHS Test and Trace discrepancies pose a potential threat to the timely supply of medicines to local communities.

Their [letter to Public Health Minister](#) Jo Churchill MP asks for her urgent help to achieve a consistent approach across the country.

There have already been several incidents where entire community pharmacy teams have been told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate following a single positive case within the pharmacy. Potentially this means pharmacies closing for up to two weeks at a time.

The current guidance from Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) is that with the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other measures to mitigate the spread of infection, pharmacy teams do not necessarily need to self-isolate. Full

delivered from the start of November through to the end of December.

PSNC is continuing to work with DHSC on the details of how community pharmacies will be able to access vaccines from this central backup stock. In our discussions, we are stressing the urgency of the details being confirmed so that contractors can plan and manage their vaccination programmes across November and December.

GPs received details of their ordering systems at the end of last week, but like community pharmacies, they will have to await delivery of the stock in November. DHSC confirmed in that guidance: “A pre-set proportion of this additional stock will also be made available to Trusts and community pharmacy, and the arrangements for them to order against this stock will be confirmed shortly.”

Community pharmacy contractors will have fair access to the backup stocks in due course and PSNC will ensure further details are published as soon possible.

Unpaid Carers

Evidence isn't actually required as proof of eligibility for an unpaid carer to access an NHS flu vaccination. If evidence can be provided, it may help speed up the process when they present in your pharmacy. PSNC has previously worked with the

details on the [PSNC Website](#).

[PSNC has updated its guidance on NHS Test and Trace](#) based on recent discussions between NHSE&I and PHE.

Healthcare workers should pause the app while working. You can read more about this [here](#)

It is not mandatory that pharmacies display NHS QR codes posters or collect details and maintain records of staff, customers and visitors for the NHS Test and Trace service as they do not fall into any of the types of businesses who are requested to do by the government. Please see more <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-covid-19-app-qr-code-posters-optional-for-community-pharmacy/>

Customers generally move around the space rather than congregate, and are expected, by law, to wear face coverings. QR codes are therefore not required but can be used if a community pharmacy wishes to offer this option.

If community pharmacies provide flu vaccinations at other premises, for example, a community centre, an NHS QR code poster may need to be displayed and a log of those attending may need to be kept.



Carers Trust so that pharmacies can give the right information to care provider organisations as well as patients trying to access flu vaccinations (free of charge). Some pharmacies may use a flyer produced by PSNC as a conversation starter or bag stuffer to identify unpaid carers and highlight the importance of vaccination to them.

Some helpful points to aid identification can be viewed here:

<https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/flu-vaccination-service/flu-vaccination-promoting-the-service-to-patients/>

Safe Spaces

Could you open up your consultation room to victims of domestic abuse? Boots and Superdrug already take part but any pharmacy can participate in the Safe Spaces initiative. Please read about it here:

<https://uksaysnomore.org/safespaces/>

In the coming weeks watch out for Government launching the 'Ask for ANI' domestic abuse codeword scheme to help victims access emergency support in the community. Victims will be able to use the codeword **ANI** (Assistance Needed Immediately) in pharmacies to let staff know that they require an emergency police response or help contacting a helpline or specialist support service.

Get to know your PCN Lead

The Pharmacy PCN Lead has an important role in shaping engagement between pharmacies in the PCN and will:

- provide a single channel of engagement with the PCN, building collaborative working relationships with relevant PCN members; and
- identify opportunities for pharmacies in the PCN area and assist the LPC, and other relevant LPCs, with the development of community pharmacy service proposals to meet local population health needs.

We have 23 PCN areas in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes. In Northamptonshire we currently have 2 PCN areas without a Pharmacy Lead. Those areas are Red Kite (Linden, Eskdaill, Weavers, Woodsend) and Triangle (Desborough, Rothwell and Gt Oakley). If you feel that your pharmacy fits comfortably in one of those two areas (do you receive most of your prescriptions from those surgeries for example?) you may like to consider becoming the Pharmacy PCN Lead. With no such person in place, no pharmacies in Red Kite or Triangle PCN will be eligible to claim points in PQS Part 2 2020/21 for the PCN domains.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the contractors in a PCN area to agree the selection of a suitable lead.

If the lead role interests you or if you are unsure about which PCN area you should group with (or have forgotten the details of your PCN Lead), please call Anne-Marie (07889412690) or email:

chiefofficer@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk

GP-CPCS

At its September 2020 meeting, PSNC agreed proposals that general practice referrals into the CPCS should commence this autumn.

This decision follows recent negotiations with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), who have been running a pilot of the service as part of the [Pharmacy Integration Programme](#).

Gluten Free Northants

Further to an email from NHSE on 29th September, advising the conclusion of the gluten free food provision we would like to advise the service has now been reinstated with immediate effect for a further 6 months period until 31/03/21.

The LPC's implementation of GP-CPCS is now underway to plan the roll out of the service, which will engage general practices across Northants and Milton Keynes, supporting them to make referrals of patients to community pharmacists for minor illness consultations. As yet, there is no GP Toolkit, but that doesn't stop us being able to lay the foundations. Avon was a pilot site and you can watch a short video of their experiences here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j440Kkzc1s&list=Wl&index=38&t=16s>

PQS 2020/21 Part 2

There are five domains each with its own component criteria to achieve; all criteria in a domain must be completed to be able to claim a payment for that domain. This week I will focus on Domain 1 - Infection Prevention & Control and AMS.

In order to satisfy the **Infection Prevention and Control** element you are required to:

- 1 All non-registered pharmacy staff working at the pharmacy must have satisfactorily completed the [HEE infection prevention and control Level 1 e-learning and assessment](#); AND
- 2 All registered pharmacy professionals must have satisfactorily completed the [HEE Infection Prevention and Control Level 2 e-learning and assessment](#); AND
- 3 Following the completion of the training, all of the pharmacy team working at the pharmacy must have completed a team review documenting the reflections and actions following the training, and amending standard operating procedures (SOPs) and associated guidance, where appropriate.

Carolynne Freeman, our LPC Chair says, "Individual staff members need to create an account on HEE as indicated below:

Access the eLFH website <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/>

Register for an account and keep a note of your log in details

You can find courses under 'View full catalogue' and under their subject headings."

In order to satisfy the **AMS** element:

- 1 **All patient-facing pharmacy staff** that provide advice on medicines or healthcare must have satisfactorily completed the [PHE Antimicrobial Stewardship for Community Pharmacy e-learning and e-assessment](#); AND
- 2 Contractors must have available, at premises level, an antimicrobial stewardship action plan for the pharmacy, which details how they will promote AMS. The action plan must include details of how all pharmacy staff involved in the provision of self-care advice will incorporate the principles of AMS into self-care advice, including reinforcing the messages around appropriate use of antibiotics, and the uptake of

vaccinations, including the flu vaccine. There must be documented evidence, at the pharmacy, that the actions within the plan have been implemented by the day of the declaration; **AND**

3 All patient facing staff that provide health advice, should have become **Antibiotic Guardians**, if they have not already done so, and have an awareness of the local antibiotic formulary.

This is the link to MK formulary. There is a whole host of useful info on the site but the primary care antimicrobial guidance can be easily found. Further down the home page there are two blue boxes – these link to a short form and the full guidance.

<https://www.formularymk.nhs.uk/default.asp>

This is the link to the Northamptonshire formulary: <http://www.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk/library/formulary.htm>

Maybe you could tie in this work with Self Care Week (16-22 November) or at least use some of the fantastic resources on the Self Care Forum website:

<http://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week/>

<http://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week-resources/>

European antibiotic awareness day also fall that week <https://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

If you really want to take the self-care element further then I would recommend the following courses –

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/successful-self-care-aware-consultations/>

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/health-literacy/>