

GOOD TO KNOW

Covid-19 | Flu | GP-CPCS

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 18-24 November 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented numerous additional challenges for health professionals managing patients with infections. Now, more than ever raising awareness of the risks of antimicrobial resistance remains important as we continue to work together to prevent serious infections – including COVID-19 as well as reducing inappropriate antibiotic use. World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and EAAD have provided opportunities for focused awareness raising over the last few years.

A resources toolkit has [been published and available here](#). It focuses on digital means of communicating including new digital resources for primary and secondary care. See local guidelines [HERE](#)



Pandemic Deliveries

Due to the new national restrictions across England, new advice has been issued to people who are **clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19** (those previously referred to as shielded patients). **With the commencement of the second national lockdown in early November 2020, the pandemic delivery service was restarted across England on 5th November 2020 and it will run until 3rd December 2020.**

Two new groups of patients have also been identified as being clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 and have been added to the list of such patients: adults with Stage 5 chronic kidney disease and adults with Down's syndrome. NHS trusts and general practices respectively will be adding patients from these groups to the shielded patient list. The need for children and young people to stay on the list will also be reviewed considering individual circumstances. The Summary Care Record will be updated accordingly.

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to go to a pharmacy. If a contractor (not Distance Selling) is asked to deliver a prescription to a clinically extremely vulnerable patient, this can be undertaken, under the terms of the Advanced service and a claim for payment can be made via the Manage Your Service platform.

[Further information on the service can be found here](#)



Accessing central flu vaccines

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published guidance on how community pharmacies will be able to access supplies of flu vaccines procured centrally by the Government.

As previously communicated, the stock procured by DHSC will start to be delivered in November and supplies will also be received in December.

The Department has worked with PSNC to develop a process for accessing the stock, giving consideration to the supply route via which pharmacies normally receive their flu vaccines and seeking to limit the impact on the business as usual supply chains. In developing the process, DHSC has also needed to protect and mitigate the risks of unintended use, as the stock procurement is a taxpayer funded programme. Full details can be found on the [PSNC website](#).

Please note : In the guidance, DHSC segments potential use the vaccines into

Updated Covid-19 SOP

At the end of October, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) issued an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for community pharmacies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A key amendment enables regional NHSE&I teams to notify pharmacies that they may work behind closed doors without the need for contractors to apply for such closed-door working. This change has been made to help healthcare bodies to tailor their response to the pandemic dependent on the local or regional situation. NHSE&I will consult with LPCs.

When agreed, working behind closed doors will be permitted up to 2.5 hours a day with opening between 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm (or 2-6pm for 100 hour pharmacies) required as a minimum. Pharmacies must be open to the public for their contracted opening hours unless working behind closed doors has been agreed in advance by NHS England. Pharmacies facing extreme pressure should submit a request to england.pharmacyeast@nhs.net (for MK pharmacies) or england.eastmidsparmacy@nhs.net (for NN pharmacies) detailing the extenuating circumstances.

Community pharmacy contractors should also note the information about NHS Test and Trace, which indicates that advice should be sought from the local Health Protection Team if a pharmacy team member tests positive for COVID-19 and there is a risk to the provision of pharmaceutical services.

Other amendments bring the SOP in line with the latest information and guidance already available to contractors on, for example, personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and the expanded flu vaccination programme.

[Read the SOP](#)

Changes to terms of service

three groups, with initial use of the stock only allowed for Group A patients:

Group A – Patients and frontline social care workers as set out in Appendix A of the [Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service specification](#), and frontline health and social care workers through locally agreed occupational health schemes.

Group B – 50-64 year olds, under the NHS Advanced service, but only at a time when DHSC and NHS England and NHS Improvement announce that vaccination of this patient group, or part of the group, should commence in pharmacies and general practices.

Group C – All other patients under private provision or occupational health schemes. Pharmacies will only be able to use the DHSC procured stock for this group of patients if surplus stock is available and DHSC notifies pharmacies that this is permissible.

We are being asked to ensure people with a learning disability (and autistic people in an at-risk group) receive flu vaccinations as a priority cohort alongside over 65's and pregnant women. The focus is on making sure that everyone with a learning disability requesting a free flu vaccination within a CP receives one. [New easy read resources](#) have been produced.

A number of changes to the terms of service for pharmacy contractors came into effect on 9 November 2020. These include requirements regarding accessing the Summary Care Record*, updating NHS website and Directory of Services profiles, accessing NHSmail and facilitating remote access to services. Contractors must register their premises specific NHSmail account with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to receive Central Alerting System (CAS) notifications. We have managed a bulk upload of premises specific NHSmail accounts to the MHRA CAS system and will be following up outstanding pharmacies who will have a requirement to register manually. We will be producing further guidance on these changes. All the changes are documented on PSNC website <https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-regulation/changes-to-the-terms-of-service-in-2020/>

*Local NHS England and NHS Improvement teams are responsible for commissioning local 'Registration Authorities' (RAs) to provide and oversee [Smartcard](#) issues. [Contact RA](#)

[List of RA contact details](#)



Self Care Week 16 – 22 November

Self Care Week is an opportunity to promote self care messages and help people to 'live self care for life'. This week in particular community pharmacies across the country are encouraged to support their communities to take care of their health and wellbeing through self care.

The Self Care Forum has [provided resources for download](#) which include posters, fact sheets, leaflets and a ['last minute activity guide for pharmacists'](#).

Covid-19 vaccination in community pharmacy

Sir Simon Stevens has announced that community pharmacy will have a role working within primary care networks in delivering a COVID-19 vaccination programme when a vaccine becomes available. A COVID-19 vaccination is likely to be commissioned as a local enhanced service in the first instance. Further details will be published in the near future.

Due to the complexity surrounding its unprecedented mass rollout and the storage requirements for the Pfizer vaccine, community pharmacy's involvement will be very different from any involvement it has in other vaccination programmes.

At this time, there are two ways pharmacies could play a part:

Option 1: Supporting a local PCN vaccination site and any outreach into care homes etc. necessary from that site; or

Option 2: Providing a COVID-19 vaccination service under the terms of the Enhanced service (which is currently being drafted) where NHSE&I determines there is no existing provision in an area or they need additional provision.

We understand that NHSE&I will shortly publish documentation on the community pharmacy Enhanced service. We will alert contractors once it is published.

Directory of Services

For urgent DoS changes and requests please call: 0203 688 1120

Northamptonshire & Milton Keynes - Out of Hours Emergency DoS Support: 07469 912 646

Clifton House, Lower Flat (Goodmans Fields)
75-77 Worship Street, London EC2A 2DU

To report a potential major technical fault with live DoS, please call NHS Digital service desk on 0300 3034 034

GP referrals to CPCS

From 1st November 2020, the CPCS was extended across England to include [referrals from general practices as well as from](#) NHS III.

GPs can refer patients to community pharmacies to receive a CPCS consultation for minor illness (unlike NHS III, GPs cannot refer patients for an urgent supply of a medicine or appliance).

Preparatory work is being undertaken to enable the newest referral pathway into CPCS to be implemented. The launch is very much a soft one. You can start to prepare for the local rollout by:

1. Reading the updated [NHS CPCS Toolkit for pharmacy staff](#)
2. Reading the [updated service specification](#);
3. Reflect on continuing professional development activity they could undertake to provide the best possible service to patients, which could include undertaking the NHS-funded CPCS training provided by the [Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Royal College of General Practitioners](#).

Contractors registered to provide the CPCS will be able to claim a £300 engagement and setup payment if they undertake a range of actions to get ready for rolling out the referral pathway in their

PQS

The declaration window for a PQS Part 1 payment is currently open. There are currently about 40 pharmacies across our LPC area who have not yet made a part 1 payment claim. They should submit their declaration at the earliest opportunity.

To meet the requirements of Part 1, contractors need to have completed all 14 actions set out in the PQS 2020/21 Part 1 Essential Criteria Checklist, which relate to the response to the pandemic.

To qualify for a PQS 2020/21 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.

The funding made available for the scheme is £18.75m and all contractors meeting the Essential Criteria Checklist can claim a payment of £1,630 via the MYS Portal. For payment schedule see <https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/pharmacy-quality-scheme/>

area. The requirements are detailed in Annex F of the [updated service specification](#). Further guidance to support with this will be available by the time we are ready to launch in your PCN.

Conversations with Fiona Garnett, Associate Director Medicines Optimisation, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Commissioning Collaborative are underway. Learnings from the pilot sites highlight the need for a whole system approach to ensure successful implementation.

Within Grand Union PCN, Northamptonshire we have identified a suitable 'early enabler' site as Abington Medical Centre. David Ashton, Pharmacy PCN Lead is currently getting in touch with pharmacies identifying with GU PCN. Regular fortnightly meetings have been taking place for some weeks with the PCN Clinical Director as we work towards a smooth service launch. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with chiefofficer@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk

PCN Pharmacy Leads

Your PCN Pharmacy Lead had an opportunity to take part in a webinar recently. The aim was to develop PCN Leads to achieve and deliver on the health programmes such as the [national flu immunisation programme plan](#). A second webinar will follow later this month with a focus on business continuity. If you are a PCN Lead, and have still to *RSVP*, please do so now. Maybe you are unsure who your PCN Lead is...if so please get in touch chiefofficer@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk* or phone Anne-Marie on 07889412690*.

Triangle (Desborough, Rothwell and Gt Oakley), Brackley and Towcester and Red Kite are currently without a PCN Lead. If you are grouped in one of these PCNs, you should be communicating with each other to identify a suitable Lead or getting in touch with Anne-Marie* if you are interested in filling the gap. Without a Lead in place you cannot claim points in PQS 20/21 domains 4 and 5.