



Daily Update

Thursday 19th November 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: LPCs utilise pandemic to improve stakeholder relationships; new COVID-19 vaccinations webpage; PSNC's regs explainer series.

Pandemic brings improved LPC stakeholder relationships

LPCs have indicated that 2020 has brought improvements in their working relationships both with PSNC and with local stakeholders.

During the November Meeting of LPCs and PSNC held earlier this week, PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes ran a series of 'temperature check' polls to hear about how this year and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted on LPCs.

The responses showed that, despite a busier workload and continued challenges with Primary Care Network (PCN) engagement, LPCs do feel they are now benefitting from better stakeholder relationships – and particularly with PSNC. Continuing to try to improve collaboration with LPCs will be a key focus for PSNC in 2021, supported by the appointment of a new Director of LPC and Contractor Support: James Wood, currently CEO of Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex, will take up the post in January.

Delegates at the November meeting also reflected on the challenges of COVID-19 and the end of the Brexit transition period, and they reported that there is still much to do to fully integrate community pharmacy into local NHS systems.

[See polls results in full](#)

New webpage on COVID-19 vaccinations

News on the positive trial results of various COVID-19 vaccines this month has prompted much speculation about how a vaccination programme might work and how quickly it will be rolled out. To help community pharmacy teams keep up-to-date, PSNC has brought together all the latest information on one webpage.

The page provides a summary of the current situation, but plans for the vaccination programme are moving at pace, while there are also many variables in relation to the individual vaccines which are yet to be confirmed. We will update the page as more information becomes available.

[PSNC's COVID-19 vaccinations webpage](#)

Changes to Pharmacy Regulations Explained

New NHS regulations were laid in October 2020 to introduce changes to the Terms of Service for pharmacy contractors. PSNC's new regs explainer series describes the actions contractors will need to take and when.

[Find our Regs explainer series here](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. A member of my team has come to work displaying potential symptoms of COVID-19, what should they do?

If a staff member is symptomatic, they should go straight home and self-isolate. If they feel unwell, they should visit 111 online for further advice. Specific guidance on when and how long to self-isolate can be found [here](#).

Q. What happens if I lose staff to illness or self-isolation and can't open my pharmacy?

NHSE&I has stated that for temporary closures, for instance where not enough staff are available to work, NHSE&I must be informed. The pharmacy NHS 111 Directory of Services (DoS) profile must be updated, as must the pharmacy profile on the NHS website (see the [NHS website](#)). NHSE&I also encourages local pharmacies to work together to maintain continuity of services in the event of temporary closures. [The CCA and NPA have issued recent business continuity advice](#) and PSNC provides advice on maintaining pharmacy services during the outbreak and a checklist for emergency closures on its [COVID hub network resilience page](#).

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

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