



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 26th March 2020

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

In today's update: a message from wholesalers, course for those returning to pharmacy practice, NHS staff security, PSNC resources

Update from the Healthcare Distribution Association (HDA)

The HDA has today updated on PSNC on the work its members are doing to ensure the ongoing resilience of the supply chain. At present wholesalers are not reporting any major supply problems. HDA wholesalers will also be as flexible as possible regarding credit caps for pharmacy purchases at this time to continue to secure all necessary supplies.

Wholesalers are, however, vulnerable to staff absences as all businesses are at the moment. There was particular confusion earlier this week following the Prime Minister's address to the nation asking people to stay at home, so clarification that all those working in the medicines supply chain are key workers was helpful.

Finally, the HDA has once again asked pharmacies to continue to return any tote boxes that they are able to, as soon as possible, so that warehouses can continue to operate and meet demand as normal.

Returning to Pharmacy Practice Course

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a new e-course designed to help pharmacy professionals returning to pharmacy practice after a gap in professional service, including those returning to the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) temporary register.

CPPE has liaised with colleagues across the profession while developing the "Guide to returning to pharmacy practice" programme, including PSNC, and the e-course is now available on the Canvas platform, via the [CPPE website](#).

Security of NHS staff

PSNC and the other national pharmacy organisations are increasingly hearing concerning stories about the security of pharmacies and their staff. We are working to raise security concerns with the relevant authorities and the RPS have today written to the National Police Chiefs Council to help make sure that all pharmacy teams across the NHS are kept safe. LPCs may also be able to raise any security concerns with local police forces.

Contractors are also reminded that as supermarkets and others increasingly prioritise NHS staff over other customers, NHS or other forms of identification can become targets for theft and should be kept safe and not on display.

PSNC's COVID-19 resources

Contractors and their teams are reminded of the wide array of information and resources available in our [COVID-19 hub](#).

From Government guidance and information for the public to considerations for opening hours and the supply of medicines, the hub has numerous resources to support community pharmacy teams. The hub will also be updated on a daily basis to incorporate the information provided in these updates.

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

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