



COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 26th May 2020

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

In today's update: 8th May Bank Holiday claims; COVID-19 related payment guide; Help Us Help You campaign.

Claiming for Early May Bank Holiday payments

Community pharmacy contractors are now able to claim payment for the national requirement to open between 2pm to 5pm on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May).

Contractors must submit their claim for the £250 per hour payment using the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) between **25th May 2020 and 22nd June 2020**.

Payment is due on the 1st July but it will not appear on the FP34 Schedule of Payment – NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will instead confirm payment via individual contractor letters.

COVID-19 related payment guide

PSNC has made representations to Government about the immense pressure pharmacies are under and the need for an urgent funding injection to the sector to ease cashflow. In the meantime, some payment adjustments have been implemented for the required bank holiday openings, the Pandemic Delivery Service and the installation of protective barriers. We have produced a guide outlining how and when certain payments will be made for the month of June/July.

[View our payment guide](#)

Help Us Help You - Primary Care

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) re-launched the Help Us Help You campaign launched last month to let the public know that the NHS was still open for business and that those accessing it for non-COVID issues wouldn't be a burden on healthcare services.

On Thursday 28th May, NHSE&I will be running a media activity day focussing on primary care. This will include activity across social media, promoting case studies and publishing blogs. Community pharmacy teams are encouraged to join in using #HelpUsHelpYou to share their examples. We will share social media assets from NHSE&I when they are available.

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on an almost daily basis. Recent additions include:

Q. We are unable to source additional PPE supplies through national wholesalers; how do we obtain additional supplies to protect our pharmacy team?

Additional quantities of Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSM), from the PHE stockpile, were delivered to AAH, Alliance Healthcare and Phoenix Healthcare on Thursday 9th April 2020. This stock is to be sold to pharmacy contractors for staff use (the stock must not be sold on to members of the public). However, please note the [update on availability of PPE from wholesalers \(29th April 2020\)](#).

Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) have received a push of PPE supplies to respond to local spikes in need, including those in social care and primary care, where there are current blockages in the supply chain. The PPE stock provided to LRFs is to support urgent need in vital services, such as community pharmacies, which are not linked to the NHS Supply Chain. This PPE is intended to support service providers which have exhausted their usual routes for PPE and there remains an urgent need for additional stock. Contact your LPC for advice on whether you can access stock from the LRF.

In addition, any organisation running critically short of PPE, and that has exhausted other supply routes, can phone the National Supply Distribution Response (NSDR) on 0800 915 9964 for an urgent delivery.

Q. The sourcing of PPE through wholesalers is another financial burden for contractors. What is PSNC doing to ensure pharmacies have access to PPE and that the cost of PPE purchased through wholesalers is accounted for?
PSNC is pressing DHSC and NHSE&I to ensure that pharmacy teams have access to the PPE they need from the PHE stockpile. We are also working to ensure that the cost of PPE is reflected in the additional pandemic funding we are seeking for the sector.

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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