



Daily Update

Monday 27th July 2020

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

In today's update: Better Health campaign launched; guidance on public face coverings use; GPhC to increase premises fees.

'Better Health' campaign encourages weight loss

Following on from the recent [Government announcement on plans to tackle obesity](#), Public Health England (PHE) has launched the 'Better Health' campaign to help 'reset' the nation's health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased public interest in health, providing a unique opportunity for people to address their personal health goals by losing weight, quitting smoking, drinking less and looking after their mental health. With nearly two-thirds (63%) of UK adults classed as overweight or obese, the Better Health campaign will initially focus on providing a range of tools and resources to support people to lose weight.

PHE is calling on community pharmacy teams to help support this campaign, recognising their unique ability to reach more vulnerable groups and to tie in public health messaging with their own services.

[Read more and find links to resources](#)

Guidance on face coverings use by patients and customers

From 24th July 2020, people in shops, including community pharmacies, are required by law to wear a face covering (subject to some exemptions).

Pharmacy teams should note that the new [Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#) allow a face covering to be removed to assist in the provision of healthcare or healthcare advice, or to take medication, e.g. to consume methadone in a pharmacy.

Contractors' terms of service provide that a pharmacy may refuse to provide medicines and appliances on prescription if a person commits or threatens to commit a criminal offence. However, they must think carefully about the appropriateness of resorting to enforcement options. If a person is not wearing a face covering, it may be difficult to determine if a relevant exemption applies, and in any event, the health needs of the patient or customer should also be considered; this is particularly relevant in healthcare settings, such as pharmacies.

[See further guidance for pharmacies](#)

GPhC to increase pharmacy premises registration fees

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has announced a £103 increase in its registration fees for pharmacy premises from April 2021.

The consultation originally proposed implementing the increased fees from October 2020 but, due to the pressures experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, their introduction has been delayed until April 2021.

During the consultation process PSNC expressed dismay about the proposal to increase premises registration and renewal fees when pharmacy businesses were already facing significant financial challenges from a combination of rising costs, capacity issues and flat funding.

[Read more about PSNC's position on the increase in fees](#)

Have you seen our latest COVID-19 related 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 a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should pharmacy teams be using?

Public Health England (PHE) has updated its guidance on the wearing of facemasks in primary and community health care settings. In summary, the recommendation is that all pharmacy staff now wear facemasks, unless the pharmacy is COVID-19 secure, including all staff being able to maintain a social distance from one another.

This aligns the PHE guidance with PSNC's guidance to contractors, issued in mid-June.

[Read the updated PHE guidance](#)

It is important to note that while pharmacy staff should now wear masks in line with the revised guidance, it is imperative that social distancing and self-isolation (where appropriate) continue to be practised and hygiene measures, such as regular hand washing, continue to be followed.

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

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

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