



Daily Update

Wednesday 5th August 2020

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

In today's update: more information on this year's flu immunisation programme; reported drug quota issues.

Further details on the national flu immunisation programme

Further to the [Annual flu letter published on the 14th May 2020](#), the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Public Health England (PHE) and, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have jointly published a second letter to provide further information on the national flu immunisation programme for 2020/21.

The letter highlights the risk of possible co-circulation of COVID-19 and flu this winter. As a result, it reinforces the message that the vaccination programme will be essential to reduce pressure on the health and social care system this winter.

Contractors are advised to read the [national flu immunisation programme update letter](#) in full but key points are highlighted below.

- Eligibility criteria has been widened as announced by the Government previously;
- aim to increase provision in the most deprived areas and BAME communities;
- community pharmacies will be able to vaccinate both residential care/nursing home residents and staff in the home setting in a single visit;
- providers will need to keep up-to-date with Government guidance on COVID-19;
- DHSC has procured additional national supply of the adult vaccine; and
- to support the increased workload, key stakeholders will be consulted on options to expand the professions able to administer vaccinations.

[Read more about the newly published information](#)

Reported drug quota issues – update

PSNC is urging community pharmacy teams to continue to report issues obtaining stock due to drug quota allocations and contingency arrangements applied by wholesalers and/or manufacturers not only to help with our investigation into wider quota issue(s) affecting the supply chain but also to assist with our representation work on these matters.

Since the launch of the quota issues [reporting form](#), PSNC has received over 230 contractor reports covering over 60 drugs reported to be affected by manufacturer and/or wholesaler-led quota restrictions. Initial observations include (not in order of priority):

- Problems with prescription validation processes;
- Particular challenges with Reduced Wholesaler Arrangement (RWA) distribution models;
- Significant time spent by pharmacy teams; and
- Few reports of actual or risk to patient harm.

PSNC has used these findings as evidence to support further investigation into both individual and wider supply issues created by drug quota allocation processes.

[Learn more, including how you can feed into our work in this area](#)

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. Can I claim under the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) if I don't see the patient face to face in the pharmacy?

Patients being referred to the CPCS for minor illness consultations, are now being told by the NHS 111 health adviser to phone the pharmacy and to speak to the pharmacist. Unless there is a clinical need for the patient to be seen in the pharmacy, the pharmacist can provide a consultation by telephone, as is provided for in the service specification. If the consultation is conducted in this manner, the pharmacy is eligible to claim the fee for provision of the service.

[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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