



# Daily Update

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

**In today's update: Claiming for COVID-19 PPE Reimbursement; Ordering COVID-19 lateral flow tests; Pandemic Delivery Service in Tier 4; Indemnity arrangements for COVID-19 vaccination; Dispensations Briefing; Online Drug Tariff emails; and 36 products added to DND list.**

## **COVID-19 PPE reimbursement: How contractors can make a claim**

PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have agreed a mechanism by which pharmacy contractors can claim reimbursement for their expenditure on personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

PPE purchased by contractors for use in the delivery of NHS pharmaceutical services, as a result of the COVID-19 infection control guidance, **between 27th February 2020 and 31st December 2020** will be covered by the reimbursement mechanism, providing the PPE will be used by the end of March 2021.

However, contractors should be aware that any PPE purchased directly by them from 1st January 2021 will not be reimbursable via the agreed mechanism. Contractors can continue to order free of charge PPE for use in their pharmacy via the [DHSC's PPE portal](#), and should ensure they have registered for this.

### **How the reimbursement mechanism works**

Claims need to be made via the [NHSBSA's Manage Your Service \(MYS\) platform](#) **between 1st January and 12th February 2021**. A central claims process option is also available for multiple pharmacies (with six or more pharmacies) as it is recognised that PPE supply may have been managed centrally for pharmacy groups.

Each pharmacy will be able to make **two types of claim**, where necessary: a standard claim and an exceptional claim.

[Read PSNC's guidance on how to make a claim](#)

## Reminder: Ordering COVID-19 lateral flow tests for staff use

Primary Care Support England (PCSE) will send the last emails to pharmacies today inviting them to order lateral flow testing devices for staff use.

Contractors need to place an order **by next Wednesday (30th December 2020)**.

Following the Government announcement on 9th November that lateral flow testing would be made available to all asymptomatic patient-facing NHS staff, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published [a letter to all primary care contractors](#) on 16th December 2020, announcing how they can order lateral flow tests.

The supply of these tests will allow all patient-facing staff to be able to test, twice-weekly, using self-administered nasal swabbing and report their results through an online platform. Any positive lateral flow antigen tests will need to be followed up by a confirmatory PCR test.

The aim is to improve virus detection in primary care thereby helping to protect staff, reduce transmission and improve the resilience of services.

The letter from NHSE&I confirms arrangements for the roll-out, including further information on how to order and receive deliveries of lateral flow antigen testing kits for staff. A dedicated [standard operating procedure \(SOP\) for primary care](#) has also been published

[Read more on this story](#)

## Pandemic Delivery Service for patients in Tier 4

Following yesterday's Government announcement of the **move of additional areas into Tier 4 from 26th December 2020**, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have confirmed that the Pandemic Delivery Service will also be extended to cover clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients living in the new Tier 4 areas.

On Monday this week (21st December 2020), it was **announced** that the service would be restarted for CEV patients living in the original Tier 4 areas, as those patients were advised to recommence shielding, including not visiting pharmacies.

The Pandemic Delivery Service will now also be re-started for CEV patients living in the following Tier 4 areas **from 26th December 2020 until 18th January 2021**:

**South East** – Brighton and Hove; Southampton; Oxfordshire (Cherwell; Oxford; South Oxfordshire; Vale of White Horse; West Oxfordshire); Surrey (Waverley); West Sussex (Adur; Arun; Chichester; Crawley; Horsham; Mid Sussex; Worthing); East Sussex (Eastbourne; Lewes; Wealden); Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane; East Hampshire; Eastleigh; Fareham; Hart; Rushmoor; Test Valley; Winchester).

**East of England** – Norfolk (Breckland; Broadland; Great Yarmouth; King's Lynn and West Norfolk; North Norfolk; Norwich; South Norfolk); Suffolk (Babergh; Ipswich; Mid Suffolk); East Suffolk; West Suffolk; Cambridgeshire (Cambridge; East Cambridgeshire; Fenland; Huntingdonshire; South Cambridgeshire); Essex (Colchester; Tendring; Uttlesford).

The Terms of Service requirements apply to all contractors in England (excluding Distance Selling Pharmacies), but as the only CEV patients that are eligible for support with deliveries

are those living in the above Tier 4 areas, only contractors located within those areas are likely to provide services to eligible patients on a regular basis.

[Read the announcement related to the original Tier 4 areas](#)

[Read more on this story](#)

## **Indemnity Arrangements for the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and NHS Resolution have issued a joint letter to reassure healthcare professionals and others about the indemnity arrangements that are in place to cover the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The letter confirms that COVID-19 vaccination activity undertaken in community pharmacy will be covered by the state indemnity schemes run by NHS Resolution until the end of March 2021.

The indemnity arrangements apply to all staff who are employed or engaged by a community pharmacy to deliver the LES vaccination service. The arrangements will also apply in any setting used by pharmacies to deliver the programme, including in care homes or domiciliary settings.

The letter lists a number of exceptions to coverage including, for example, any non-clinical vaccination activity undertaken by staff or locally recruited volunteers in community pharmacy: this must be covered under the pharmacy contractor's own third-party liability insurance, and NHSE&I and DHSC recommend community pharmacies put in place local volunteer agreements, if relevant.

[Read more on this story, including the letter and pharmacy FAQs](#)

## **PSNC Briefing 045/2020: Regulatory and contractual dispensations agreed to assist contractors with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic**

This briefing sets out the regulatory and contractual dispensations agreed with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) as of 22nd December 2020. These have been agreed to support contractors in their continuing efforts to provide core services and meet the needs of their patients.

[PSNC Briefing 045/2020](#)

## **Online Drug Tariff emails**

NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has now (**22nd December 2020**) sent out emails to all pharmacy contractors who have an email address registered with NHSBSA with a link to the PDF of the [January 2021 Drug Tariff](#). Pharmacy contractors will continue to receive monthly emails when the Tariff is published, unless they choose to unsubscribe.

[Read more on this story](#)

## 36 new products added to DND list

Following applications made by PSNC to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), a further **36 new products** will enter the list of 'Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted' (DND) in Part II of the Drug Tariff from 1 January 2021. This follows the recent announcement of over **100 products added to the DND list** in October 2020.

**[Read more on this story](#)**

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

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