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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | Daily Update | | Thursday 8th April 2021 | | |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |  | This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In today's update: New advice for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine; BOPA e-learning; R****PS Expert Advisory Groups Applications.**** **C-19 Vaccines Update: New advice for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued new advice to C-19 vaccination providers about the use of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.  Following a thorough review into reports of a very rare type of blood clot in the brain, the MHRA is advising that everybody who has already had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, excluding those people who experienced blood clots with low platelet counts from their first dose, should receive a second dose of the same brand, irrespective of age. It also recommends that it is preferable for people under the age of 30 with no underlying health conditions to be offered an alternative vaccine where possible once they are eligible.  Updated information and guidance about blood clotting and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is being provided for both the public and healthcare professionals.  [**Learn more about the new MHRA advice**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e38c943bbf&e=12757307a1)  **BOPA ‘Let’s Communicate Cancer Series’** The British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA) has launched an educational series on how to discuss cancer, which may be useful for community pharmacy teams. ‘Let’s Communicate Cancer’ is free and easily accessible e-learning that teaches healthcare professionals about cancer from basics to detail.    Given that the Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) requirements became a part of the new Terms of Service for all pharmacies from [**1st January 2021**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=b0447391b8&e=12757307a1), pharmacies may wish to take advantage of this free training to up-skill their teams ahead of considering any cancer awareness activities as part of their ongoing health promotion activities.  [**Find out more about the ‘Let’s Communicate Cancer Series’**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=59dcd333ab&e=12757307a1)  **Applications to join new RPS Expert Advisory Groups now open**   The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is recruiting members for three new Expert Advisory Groups, which are being set up to provide a fresh source of expertise on issues relating to the pharmacy profession.  The new groups will cover community pharmacy, digital pharmacy matters, and primary care pharmacy. Applications to join are now open and appointments will be announced in May.  [**Learn more, including how to apply to join**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=de1afd2ddf&e=12757307a1)     |  | | --- | | Have you seen our latest FAQs? |   PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams, and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:  **Q. Will I need to provide my wholesaler(s) with any specific information or declarations to order test kits for the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution (Pharmacy Collect)** **service?**  No. The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will provide wholesalers with a list of contractors that have signed up to provide the service.  **Q. I have asked a person who wants to collect a lateral flow device test kit why they need the tests, and their reason is not listed in the service specification (i.e. school-related, leave the house for work, the local council advised them to test or GP/healthcare professional advised them to test). Can I still provide the tests?**  Yes. Everyone in England is to be given access to two free coronavirus tests a week. If their reason is not one of the four listed in the service specification, pharmacy staff should select ‘Other’ and record the reason why the person is requesting the supply.  **Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page:**[**psnc.org.uk/coronavirus**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=b671e78d7a&e=d3dc5e7fbd) |  | | |
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