



COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 24th March 2020

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

In today's update: contractor emails, COVID-19 hub, EPS continuity, free training, pre-reg trainee guidance

PSNC's COVID-19 Hub

PSNC has updated its hub for community pharmacy teams on the COVID-19 coronavirus to include much more useful information, guidance and resources.

The hub will be reviewed on a daily basis and updated as required. A number of other resources are planned in the coming days and weeks, such as a series of FAQs based on the questions that pharmacy teams and LPCs have been sending in.

Sections of **PSNC's COVID-19 hub** include: contractor guidance and support, personal protective equipment (PPE), business continuity, information for the public, supply of medicines, Medicines Delivery Service, and what PSNC is doing.

EPS Continuity Tips

PSNC recommends that in these times where there could be a risk of temporary closure at your pharmacy caused by COVID-19, contractors consider the following EPS timing submission tips:

- Send EPS dispense and claim messages promptly and often, preferably daily.
- Take account of the EPS 5-day window.
- Use the 'bulk submit' feature on PMR systems.
- Ensure that all Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) prescription issues are claimed within 365 days.
- Send your EPS claim message soon after the final dispense message has been sent.
- Ensure that Schedule 2, 3 and 4 Controlled Drug prescriptions have EPS dispense and claim messages sent in a timely manner.

Read more about EPS submission timing at: psnc.org.uk/timeeps

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Free Educational Tools

Some education and training providers are offering free courses that community pharmacy teams may wish to take advantage of.

Health Education England e-Learning for Healthcare (HEE e-LfH)

A free to access e-learning programme on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic is now available for the UK health and care workforce. The programme includes key materials to help the healthcare professionals respond to Coronavirus, and more content will be added in the coming days and weeks. For more information about the programme, visit: www.e-lfh.org.uk/coronavirus.

Buttercups

Training

A free short training course has been developed for all pharmacies who may need to temporarily use additional staff to support pharmacy services. 'Pandemic Training for Additional Staff to Support Pharmacy Services' is now available to download from the [Buttercups website](#).

Guidance for Pre-Reg Trainees

HEE, along with the Statutory Education Bodies Scotland and Wales, is aware of the concerns over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pharmacy education and training, alongside the broader impact on clinical care. The bodies have therefore issued [national guidance for Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians and Pre-Registration Pharmacist Trainees](#).

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

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