



Daily Update

Monday 3rd 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: PPE portal open for pharmacies; recently opened pharmacies to receive share of COVID-19 advance sums; July COVID-19 impact survey for independent pharmacies.

PPE portal: now live for Community Pharmacy

Today the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that community pharmacies can now order additional personal protective equipment (PPE) through the online portal **in an emergency**.

The PPE portal had previously only been open to social care and general practice providers to order and receive critical coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE supplies. Community pharmacies are now being added to the system and contractors will receive an email invitation to their shared NHSmail inbox to register. The emails will be sent in a phased approach to manage the smooth registration of pharmacies by the portal's logistics team.

[Learn more about using the PPE portal](#)

Recently opened pharmacies to receive share of COVID-19 advance sums

Following representations from PSNC, community pharmacies that newly opened (including any changes to ownership, consolidations, mergers etc.) between 1st March 2020 and 30th June 2020 can receive advance funding to help mitigate cashflow issues due to COVID-19.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that, as long as these recently opened pharmacies provided NHS pharmaceutical services during these months, they will be eligible to receive a share of the total uplift of circa £370 million in advance funding given to pharmacy contractors.

Different arrangements to calculate uplift payments were needed for new pharmacies that opened between 1st March 2020 and 30th June 2020 because of the method use for calculation of the advance payments. For example, pharmacies that opened in June did not receive any uplift payments that were made to existing pharmacies on the 1st July because this payment was calculated as an uplift of the May advance payment.

[Click here for more information, including how the uplifts will be calculated](#)

COVID-19 operational pressures on independent pharmacies – July 2020 survey

PSNC is collecting data on an ongoing basis to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on pharmacies in England. As part of this, we are asking contractors running independent pharmacies to fill out a monthly 'Temperature Check' survey looking at the various pressures on their pharmacy, and **the July 2020 survey is now open**.

If you run an independent pharmacy, we would be very grateful if you could **fill out the survey by clicking here**. The questions can be **downloaded in advance** to help you collate your response before filling out the Survey Monkey questionnaire. **The survey is open until 23:59 on Wednesday 19th August**.

Data will be aggregated to help understand the pressures independent pharmacies are facing. Head Offices of larger groups have been contacted separately to collect data via AIM and CCA.

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. I have received a letter from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) stating that I need to publish the metrics following risk assessments for at-risk staff groups. Are we required to publish the requested metrics, and if so where?
The request in the NHSE&I letter dated 24th June 2020, does not apply to community pharmacy contractors following the introduction of the risk assessment declaration for community pharmacy contractors, via the snap survey on the NHSBSA website. The details requested in the letter are applicable to NHS Trusts and other large NHS employers only.

[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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