



# Daily Update

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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: new flexible approaches to flu vaccination service; further additions made to July 2020 price concessions.**

### **Update on new flexible approaches to flu vaccination service**

An update on the new flexible approaches being considered to support the provision of the flu vaccination service has been released.

**Contractors must note that the changes PSNC is seeking to the flu vaccination service, described in the update, have not yet been agreed and may never be agreed.**

On 3rd July 2020, PSNC published a [Briefing](#) for contractors which provided early guidance on the 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service. In alignment with this, we are in the process of confirming with NHSE&I and DHSC the introduction of the following flexibilities and approaches into the 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service:

- Vaccination in the pharmacy, outside the consultation room, but elsewhere within the premises;
- Off-site provision; and
- Care homes.

We are also expecting the signed consent record to no longer be mandatory, so contractors can look to adopt in the main a verbal consent model, with the patient's consent being noted in the clinical record.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** PHE has recently published [clinical guidance for healthcare professionals on maintaining immunisation programmes during COVID-19](#) which includes guidance on PPE use when vaccinating patients. The procurement route for PPE and reimbursement of the costs are still being discussed, and an update will be provided as soon as possible.

### **[Further information on the flexibilities being considered](#)**

### **Further additions made to July 2020 Price Concessions**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has today granted three additional price concessions for prescriptions dispensed and submitted for payment in **July 2020 only**.

Following the publication of the [July final price concession update](#) on 30th July 2020, PSNC made an additional application for three further price concessions. This was based on feedback received from contractors later in the month regarding the unavailability of Prednisolone 2.5mg, 10mg and 20mg tablets at or below the listed July 2020 Drug Tariff price.

DHSC accepted PSNC's request and granted the following additional price concessions for July 2020.

Drug	Pack size	Price concession granted for July 2020
Prednisolone 2.5mg tablets	30	£3.97
Prednisolone 10mg tablets	30	£16.00
Prednisolone 20mg tablets	30	£28.50

Any prescriptions for these items already submitted for payment in July will automatically be reimbursed at the new prices by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). As price concessions are granted on a month-by-month basis these prices **do not** apply to prescriptions dispensed and submitted for payment for August. PSNC has initiated the usual concession application process for August and will inform contractors of any agreed prices in due course.

### 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 still claim payment for medicine deliveries to shielded patients?**

With shielding requirements being lifted by the government, the pandemic delivery service is now only available for those in local outbreak areas specified by NHSE&I.

PSNC has therefore agreed with NHSE&I that contractors located in the specified local outbreak areas will continue to receive the Essential service payment, but this payment will cease, as previously planned, for all other contractors.

If a contractor (excluding Distance Selling Pharmacies), located anywhere in England, is asked to deliver a prescription to a shielded patient living in one of the specified local outbreak areas, this can continue to be done under the terms of the Advanced service and a claim for payment can be made by the 5th of the following month via the Manage Your Service (MYS) platform

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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

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