



# Daily Update

Wednesday 12<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: pharmacy media coverage; Pharmacy Quality Scheme; dispensing unlicensed medicines.

### Pharmacy media coverage: Pharmacies' role in the pandemic

Jackie Doyle-Price, the Conservative MP for Thurrock and chair of the Parliamentary All Party Pharmacy Group (APPG), has highlighted the important role of pharmacy throughout the pandemic in The Telegraph today. In an opinion piece, Jackie describes pharmacies as a fundamental part of the NHS family and calls for additional support for the sector.

[Read the article here](#)

### 2020/21 Pharmacy Quality Scheme

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded that they can start claiming for Part 1 of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) via the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal immediately.

To meet the requirements of the new scheme, contractors need to complete all 14 actions set out in a checklist, all of which relate to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic; many contractors will already have undertaken most if not all of the actions in the checklist over the last few months.

#### [Learn more about Part 1 of PQS](#)

It has been agreed that completion of the Part 1 scheme will be a Gateway requirement for the Part 2 scheme. While PSNC's work continues with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement to finalise the arrangements for the Part 2 scheme, last week we gave contractors an early view of the domains and criteria that will need to be fulfilled to make a declaration in February 2021.

#### [Read the initial information on Part 2 PQS](#)

### Dispensing unlicensed medicinal products ('specials')

Pharmacy contractors have raised concerns about dispensing prescriptions for unlicensed medicinal products at a loss because some have been prescribed incorrectly using EPS. To minimise the risk of dispensing at a loss, PSNC has the following advice:

- **Check the prescription is written correctly** – instructions to supply an unlicensed special should **not** be included in the dosage area;

- **Get a new prescription issued if needed** – a prescriber must select the appropriate Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) on their prescribing system to allow pharmacy teams to supply and be reimbursed for dispensing a special. In some cases, you may need to request a paper prescription if the product cannot be issued via EPS (i.e. if there is no listing for the product on the NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices database (dm+d));
- **Endorse the prescription correctly** – full product details are required for any unlicensed medicines that do not appear in Part VIIIIB of the Drug Tariff; and
- **Place in the red separator** – if you have a paper prescription for a special, place it in the red separator when submitting your monthly prescription bundle.

Further guidance is available on page 7 of the [July 2020 Community Pharmacy News \(CPN\) magazine](#).

### 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. Do I have to engage with the PQS?**

No. The scheme is voluntary – contractors do not need to engage with it – but PSNC recommends that all contractors should seek to meet the checklist criteria. There are significant elements of the checklist that will support contractors to additionally comply with elements of Health and Safety legislation. Contractors that successfully meet all the requirements will receive a payment which will be funded from a £18.75m budget.

Negotiations are currently ongoing in relation to the Part 2 2020/21 scheme, but it has been agreed that completion of the Part 1 scheme may be a Gateway requirement for the Part 2 scheme.

[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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