



Daily Update

Wednesday 19th 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: registration opens for Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme; have your say on the future of pharmacy representation; last chance to complete July COVID-19 impact survey.

Registration opens for Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme

Heath Education England (HEE) has announced that it is now accepting applications to join the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP).

This new education programme is part of a planned reform of pharmacist education, which has been accelerated to help mitigate the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the 2019/20 cohort of pre-registration pharmacists.

Starting in September 2020, the IFPP is a fully funded 12-month programme that aims to give provisionally registered pharmacists the foundation training support they need. It will help to develop pharmacists' ability to achieve high quality outcomes for patients, improve patient safety and reduce medication errors.

[**Find out more, including how to register**](#)

Have your say on the future of pharmacy representation

In June 2020 Professor David Wright published the findings of his independent review into community pharmacy contractor representation and support. The review looked at the workings of LPCs and PSNC and it set out 33 recommendations for the future.

LPCs and PSNC met in July to discuss the findings of the review, and last week PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes held a webinar for contractors to set out some initial responses to the review team's recommendations and to talk about the next steps for the sector.

The webinar talks through four questions that PSNC and LPCs are considering over the summer – we would be delighted to hear from community pharmacy contractors about these as well. To share views, contractors are advised to watch the on-demand webinar.

[**Find out more and watch the webinar here**](#)

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

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded that 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 independent pharmacy contractors to fill out a monthly 'Temperature Check' survey looking at the various pressures on their pharmacy, and **the July 2020 survey is currently 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. How can PSNC become faster at dealing with price concession issues, especially now when there are so many price increases and drug shortages?
PSNC is actively monitoring reports received of pricing over Tariff through the **[pricing issues reporting tool](#)** and continuing to receive these reports is essential to our work negotiating price concessions. Given the unprecedented pressure pharmacy contractors and their staff are under, we have urged DHSC to exercise more flexibility in determining price concessions quickly and responsively given the number of drugs reported to have been affected by price hikes, updating our requests for lines to be considered throughout the month. We have raised with DHSC the increased volume of lines being reported and the impact the pricing has on cashflow. Reports regarding shortages, through the new **[shortage reporting tool](#)** are highlighted to DHSC to investigate. **[Our briefing details how the price concession system operates.](#)**

[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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