



Daily Update

Tuesday 25th 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: Flu update for contractors; submitting SSP claims.

Flu Vaccination Advanced Service Update

Discussions on the flu vaccination service for 2020/21 began many months ago, but the service specification for the community pharmacy service is still going through the final stages of NHS England & NHS Improvement's (NHSE&I) internal approval process.

At this stage, contractors are advised that we still expect the service specification and the national Patient Group Direction to be published by the Bank Holiday weekend, ready for the service to commence next Tuesday.

There is (and has been for many months) considerable urgency both at PSNC and NHSE&I regarding the service, and we have underlined to NHSE&I the critical importance of this service being up and running from the beginning of the vaccination season.

[Read more about PSNC's negotiations on flu here](#)

Are you submitting Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) claims using tokens correctly?

We have received feedback from NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) that EPS tokens used to make claims for any supplies made against Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) are not being submitted correctly by some contractors.

For electronic prescriptions, contractors have the option to endorse and submit SSP claims either electronically or manually using EPS tokens. Pharmacy contractors are reminded that when using tokens to submit SSP claims, the tokens must be placed in the **red separator** on top of the relevant paid/exempt prescription bundle in a secure manner (for example, by securing the red separator to the main prescription bundle with an elastic band to avoid any tokens and paper prescriptions from slipping out of the separator during transit) before submitting to NHSBSA in the usual way.

If tokens with SSP claims are not placed in the red separator and are mixed in with the other tokens for non-payment (i.e. signed, paid and exempt tokens except for those of patients who are age-exempt), these will not be processed for payment by the NHSBSA.

[Read the full story here](#)

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. Are there any planned changes to the end of month submission period?

There are no planned changes to the end of month submissions process. Contractors must therefore continue to submit their end of month bundle and FP34C as normal using their usual secure delivery method no later than the 5th day of the month following that in which supply was made. PSNC has put together a [list of top tips to help contractors with their end of month process](#).

[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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