



# Daily Update

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**In today's update: use of COVID-19 app by healthcare workers; Tolterodine 1mg tablets notice; EPS Phase 4 now at >90% of GP practices; Fluoxetine 40mg capsules SSP has expired.**

## **Healthcare workers should pause the NHS COVID-19 app when at work**

For those who have downloaded and are using the [NHS COVID-19 app](#), NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) advises healthcare workers to pause the app while working in a healthcare building, such as a hospital or GP surgery. This includes an NHS community pharmacy. The app should also be paused if working behind a fixed Perspex (or equivalent) screen, which is big enough to provide adequate protection.

Further advice for healthcare workers can be found on the [NHS website](#).

If healthcare workers test positive for coronavirus, NHS Test and Trace will assess whether relevant healthcare staff have been at risk of contracting coronavirus, and whether anybody else should self-isolate. Generally, these assessments are undertaken by the Public Health England (PHE) Local Health Protection Team. Accordingly, if a member of pharmacy staff tests positive for coronavirus, contractors are advised to ensure that the pharmacy's case is managed by, or escalated if necessary, to the Local Health Protection Team for an assessment that considers the individual circumstances of the pharmacy.

### **NHS Test and Trace issues**

PSNC is aware of increasing issues around NHS Test and Trace for community pharmacy contractors and is working with NHSE&I to resolve them. Community pharmacy is a key part of NHS primary care services, and PSNC expects NHS Test and Trace decision-making and management of pharmacies, at all levels within PHE, to recognise this and be equivalent to decision-making and management for other primary care contractor colleagues.

## **Tolterodine 1mg tablets – September 2020 price concession re-determination**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has re-determined the September 2020 concessionary price for **Tolterodine 1mg tablets (56)** as **£12.90**. All prescriptions for Tolterodine 1mg tablets submitted to NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) for payment for the dispensing month of September will be reimbursed at this new price.

The final price concession update for September 2020 published by DHSC on 1st October 2020 contained an error. This has now been updated to reflect the new re-determined concessionary price of £12.90 for Tolterodine 1mg tablets **for September 2020 only**.

[Further information is available here](#)

## EPS Phase 4 rolled out to over 90% of GP practices

Following [previous announcements](#), NHS Digital has now rolled out EPS Phase 4 to all GP practices using the TPP SystmOne GP and EMIS systems, so all community pharmacy teams should be aware that they will start to receive more EPS Phase 4 tokens from patients to process.

NHS Digital supported the rollout of EPS Phase 4 to many more practices to support patients in getting their medicines during what is expected to be a busy winter season for healthcare providers. Following the Autumn Phase 4 rollout, more than 90% of GP practices now have prescribing systems which can send Phase 4 prescriptions.

Under Phase 4 electronic prescriptions have become the default, thereby reducing the amount of paperwork generated and making the process more COVID-safe. As more GP practices continue to familiarise themselves with Phase 4 over the coming weeks, pharmacy teams will see the majority of hand-signed FP10s replaced by Phase 4 tokens.

[Learn more about the progress of the Phase 4 rollout](#)

## SSP06 for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules has now expired

Following the implementation of SSP06, it appears that sufficient stock of Fluoxetine 40mg capsules is now available to supply normal demand; as a result the **SSP06 for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules expired at 23.55pm Friday 2nd October 2020**. Any prescriptions for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules after this date must be dispensed in accordance with the prescription, as the SSP will no longer be valid for use.

[Read our full news story](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

### **Q. Which care home and domiciliary care workers are eligible for the Flu Vaccination Service?**

Health and social care staff who are eligible for the Flu Vaccination Service are those aged 18 years and over, employed by a registered residential care/nursing home, registered domiciliary care provider or a voluntary managed hospice provider who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza. Vulnerable means those patients/clients in a clinical risk group for flu or aged 65 years and over, are eligible to be vaccinated by community pharmacies.

**Q. Does a social care worker need to provide evidence that they work within a relevant organisation?**

No, that is not required, but if evidence can be provided, it may help speed up the process when they present in the pharmacy. PSNC has provided a [template](#) that pharmacies can give to local care provider organisations, for them to add to their letterhead and provide to staff.

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

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