



# Daily Update

Wednesday 14<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: Statement on additional flu stock; medicines recall notices.**

### **Community pharmacy access to Government flu stock**

As community pharmacy contractors will know, this year the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has secured an additional supply of flu vaccines from four manufacturers. Most of these supplies are not stock that would ordinarily be available in the UK, as they are the result of vaccine suppliers running their production cycles for longer than they had originally planned. As a consequence of this, these extra vaccines will be delivered from the start of November through to the end of December.

PSNC is continuing to work with DHSC on the details of how community pharmacies will be able to access vaccines from this central backup stock. In our discussions, we are stressing the urgency of the details being confirmed so that contractors can plan and manage their vaccination programmes across November and December.

GPs received details of their ordering systems at the end of last week, but like community pharmacies, they will have to await delivery of the stock in November. DHSC confirmed in that guidance: "A pre-set proportion of this additional stock will also be made available to Trusts and community pharmacy, and the arrangements for them to order against this stock will be confirmed shortly."

Community pharmacy contractors will have fair access to the backup stocks in due course and PSNC will ensure further details are published as soon possible.

### **MHRA medicines recall notices**

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has released some medicines recall notices which community pharmacy teams should be aware of. Please click the links below to see the related updates.

**[Class 2 MHRA Medicines Recall: Epilim 500mg Gastro-Resistant Tablets \(Sanofi\)](#)**

**[Class 3 MHRA Medicines Recall: Metoprolol 50mg tablets \(Accord Healthcare Ltd\)](#)**

## 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. If a patient has already received a seasonal flu vaccine this year (e.g. in January), do they still need a vaccine during this flu season (e.g. in September)?**

A. Yes. If the patient received the vaccine produced for the previous season, then they will still need a dose of the vaccine produced for the new season as the vaccine for each season contains different strains.

In addition, the protection gained from flu vaccine is thought to last for one season only, so those eligible to receive the vaccine are recommended to have it every year to ensure on-going protection.

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

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ  
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: [info@psnc.org.uk](mailto:info@psnc.org.uk)