



Daily Update

Monday 26th 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: signpost C-19 patients to clinical studies; NHS Test and Trace survey; digital market entry applications; Pneumovax 23 supply notification.

Help fight C-19 by signposting patients to clinical studies

Community pharmacists and their teams are being encouraged to support the nation's fight against COVID-19 by signposting patients with suspected or even confirmed SARS-COV-2 infection to the [PRINCIPLE trial](#).

The PRINCIPLE trial platform is a UK-wide priority trial to find treatments for COVID-19 and the only one based in primary care.

It is designed to test a range of treatments in the community, with treatment arms that can be stopped, replaced or added. Currently it is evaluating usual care alone versus usual care plus azithromycin; or usual care plus doxycycline.

The trial is being run by the University of Oxford and is funded by UK Research and Innovation and the Department for Health and Social Care through the National Institute for Health Research.

[Learn more about who is eligible and how to refer them](#)

NHS Test and Trace: Impact on community pharmacies

Following on from [PSNC writing to the Pharmacy Minister earlier this month](#) on the issues some community pharmacies are experiencing with NHS Test and Trace, we have been approached by a national media outlet who is interested in the impact that incorrect handling of cases by contact tracers is having on pharmacies.

To inform PSNC's work in this area and any media reports, we would like to get a sense of how many pharmacies are or have been affected, and how easy it has been to resolve the situation.

[Complete the Impact of NHS Test and Trace decisions survey](#) – please complete by **5pm on Tuesday 27th October**.

Market entry applications go digital

Primary Care Support England (PCSE) successfully launched a digital service for pharmacies to make market entry applications online earlier this year, hosted on its platform PCSE Online.

This one-stop online tool enables users to apply to open a new pharmacy, add or remove directors from their corporate structure and change ownership, as well as providing real time tracking of their application's progress. Further information, including how to register to use the digital service, can be found on the [PCSE website](#).

Vaccine Supply Notification: 23 valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23) pre-filled syringes

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a vaccine supply notification for 23 valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23) pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited). Supplies of Pneumovax 23 pre-filled syringes (PFS) are very limited until January 2021, due to increased demand.

Supplies can only be ordered from the wholesaler AAH and maximum ordering quotas have been placed to ensure equitable and appropriate distribution during this period.

[Learn more here](#)

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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