



# Daily Update

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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

## In today's update: latest PSNC CEO Blog; pharmacy COVID-19 impact inquiry; using DHSC flu vac stock.

### PSNC CEO Blog

In his latest blog, PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes asks *why has there been no reassurance that pharmacy's COVID-19 costs will be covered?* He reflects on the impressive work community pharmacy teams have put in this year and the need for this to be recognised by Government.

[Read the CEO Blog](#)

### Inquiry into COVID-19 impact on pharmacy

The All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) is running a rapid inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on pharmacy. Looking at a range of financial and operational pressures on the sector, the inquiry aims to establish a set of recommendations to put to the Government, outlining the additional support the sector requires.

To inform this work, contractors and pharmacy staff are encouraged to complete [a workforce survey](#) by **30th November**. A series of interviews with key sector stakeholders are also being conducted to help gather data.

Further details on the inquiry are available on the [APPG website](#).

### Using DHSC procured flu vac stock

We know contractors are keen to meet the continuing high demand for flu vaccination from the existing eligible cohorts and the additional 50-64 year old cohort, but the current availability of vaccines are still less than required to meet the immediate demand.

Deliveries of the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) flu vaccination stock is now starting to arrive and will continue to be delivered over the next few weeks. The DHSC stock is being made available to contractors via pharmaceutical wholesalers and orders should continue to be placed with the wholesalers that are supplying this stock. Wholesalers will require pharmacies to complete a declaration before they can access the DHSC stock.

Contractors can use the DHSC flu vaccine stock as follows:

- **Stock can be used immediately for Group A** – patients and frontline social care workers as set out in Appendix A of the [Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service specification](#), and frontline health and social care workers through locally agreed occupational health schemes.
- **From 1st December 2020, it can also be used for Group B** – 50-64 year olds, under the NHS Advanced service.

Full information is available in the [DHSC guidance](#).

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. How can PSNC become faster at dealing with price concession issues, if further drug price increases and supply issues are expected due to Brexit?**

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.](#)

**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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