



Daily Update

Monday 18th January 2021

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

In today's update: upcoming Pharmacy Advice Audit; FAQs on Lateral Flow Testing; PSNC CEO joins Board of Antibiotic Research UK; drug recall for Instanyl 100mcg nasal spray solution.

One week until PSNC's 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit

As contractors may already be aware, last week [we announced a second Pharmacy Advice Audit](#).

The audit, focussed on the reasons why people choose to visit community pharmacies, will assist PSNC in providing crucial evidence for our ongoing funding discussions with HM Government and the NHS, as well as giving a sense of the impact that COVID is having on pharmacy teams.

Your data will help us quantify how many unpaid GP referrals are taking place, and it will tell us more about the advice that the general public is continuing to seek from pharmacies during the pandemic. The audit will also help us to assess the workload and staffing pressures that your pharmacy is under.

PSNC is increasingly concerned about the pressures that pharmacy teams are facing and we have piloted the audit in advance to make it as easy as possible for you to carry out. We would be very grateful to any pharmacy teams who are able to take part next week.

Further details and guidance materials will be shared in the coming days.

Reminder: Video message from PSNC CEO

On Friday, PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes released a new video message for community pharmacy contractors and their teams.

In the video Simon reflects on the extraordinary year just passed and looks to the challenges ahead, noting in particular the stoicism and commitment of community pharmacy teams and calling for an end to the slow responses from policy makers that we have seen throughout the pandemic.

[Watch Simon's message here](#)

FAQs on Lateral Flow Testing

Following the Government announcement that lateral flow testing would be made available to all asymptomatic patient-facing NHS staff, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published [a letter to all primary care contractors](#) on 16th December 2020, announcing how they can order lateral flow tests.

Full information on Lateral Flow Testing for asymptomatic pharmacy staff can be found on our [Staff wellbeing and COVID-19 testing page](#). However, following contractor queries, we have also now added a number of new FAQs on this topic to our [COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#). Some of those FAQs are listed below.

Q. Who administers the test?

The test is self-administered. A [Health Education England instruction video](#) and [written instructions](#), including on interpretation of results, are available for staff to learn to self-administer their test.

Q. Is the test mandatory or voluntary?

The tests are voluntary.

Q. Should staff members continue testing after they've received the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, staff should continue to test even though they have had the vaccine.

PSNC CEO becomes Chair of Antibiotic Research UK Board

Antibiotic Research UK has announced PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes as Chair Designate of its Board of Trustees. The charity works to develop new antibiotic treatments, educate the public about resistance and provide patient support.

In announcing the appointment, Professor Colin Garner, Antibiotic Research UK's Chief Executive, highlighted Simon's proven track record in change management and his experience interacting with Government as reasons for his selection.

[Read the charity's press release here](#)

MHRA Company Led Drug Alert and Recall: Instanyl 100mcg nasal spray solution

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a company-led drug recall for: **Instanyl 100mcg nasal spray solution**.

Takeda UK Limited is recalling a batch of Instanyl 100mcg nasal spray solution (EU/1/09/531/015) due to the observation of cracked vials during inspection of the bulk vials and release testing of the finished products. So far, the company has not received any reports of damage for the marketed products. However, due to the low potential for breaking or cracking of the glass vial, which is contained within the plastic actuator casing and a potential risk of microbial contamination, this batch is being recalled as a precautionary measure.

[View the medicines recall in full](#)

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

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