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| Daily Update |
| Thursday 25th March 2021 |

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|  | This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.In today's update: End of shielding for CEV patients; April Category M prices announced; GPhC explores impact of C-19 on pharmacy students; c****onsultation on regulation of healthcare professionals****; C-19 vaccination safety poster. **Shielding for CEV patients to stop from 1st April 2021**The Government has advised that from 1st April 2021 all clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients in England will no longer be required to shield; all CEV patients should have received a [**letter**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e1c38d1580&e=12757307a1) notifying them of this.Community pharmacy contractors should be aware that the Pandemic Delivery Service for CEV patients will finish on 31st March 2021, although the service will continue for [**people who have been notified of the need to self-isolate**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=88cb660efe&e=12757307a1) by NHS Test and Trace.[**Learn more about the end of shielding**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9b42576ab7&e=12757307a1) **April 2021 Category M prices announced**The Drug Tariff Category M pricelist for April 2021 has been published on the [**NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=6ddc8a912d&e=12757307a1).The April Category M prices reflect natural reductions to prices due to changes in the buying costs of medicines in the reference period (October to December 2020), along with an uplift to ensure margin run rates proceed at the desired level. However, PSNC also pressed the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to retain the previous £15m per quarter uplift included in January’s Drug Tariff.[**Learn more about the new Category M prices**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=cd90ee1d8a&e=12757307a1)**The impact of C-19 on pharmacy students**The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has commissioned Keele University to research the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on provisionally-registered pharmacists and pre-registration trainees. Target participation groups will be emailed about how to get involved.Through the study, the GPhC aims to understand the experiences of clinical training over the last 12 months and preparations around sitting the registration assessment. The findings will feed into the GPhC’s work on educational reform to the initial education and training of pharmacists.[**Read more about this study**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e9b237a8f0&e=12757307a1)**Consultation on the regulation of healthcare professionals**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has launched a consultation on proposals to reform the regulation of healthcare professionals in the UK, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The proposed reforms aim to protect the public and registrants’ rights, enable the system to respond to changing workforce developments, and simplify overly detailed legislation where possible. They have been developed in partnership with the professional regulator bodies. Those wishing to respond to the consultation should do so by 12.15am on 16th June 2021. [**Read the proposals and respond to the consultation**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=54e714a846&e=12757307a1) **PDA publishes C-19 vaccination safety poster**Drawing on its experiences as an insurer, the Pharmacists’ Defence Association (PDA) has developed a poster on lessons from the experience of pharmacists working in the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The poster aims to help improve vaccination safety by sharing the experiences of others and is designed to be displayed in vaccination venues. The poster is available to [**download from the PDA website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=50f3032c41&e=12757307a1). **Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page:**[**psnc.org.uk/coronavirus**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=b671e78d7a&e=d3dc5e7fbd) |  |

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