



COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 30th June 2020

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

In today's update: extensions made to COVID-19 provisions; monthly PSNC communications; availability of Epipen.

Extensions made to COVID-19 provisions

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced the extension of certain services and provisions introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic through a number of [Drug Tariff updates for July 2020](#). We have summarised the updates below.

Pandemic Delivery Service: The Government shielding support package, including the pandemic delivery service (the Terms of Service requirements and the Advanced service), will remain in place **until 31st July 2020**, with no changes to the requirements.

Flexible provision of services: Currently, the enacting of emergency provisions mean pharmacies can make temporary changes to opening hours or temporary closures at short notice where there are adequate reasons. This emergency period will be extended to **1st September 2020**.

Terms of Service: The regulations required to enact several changes to the Terms of Service due to commence in July 2020 – including the requirement for all community pharmacies to be Healthy Living Pharmacies – have not been laid due to the Government focusing on the COVID-19 response. PSNC is discussing with DHSC and NHSE&I when the best time would be for these requirements to commence.

[Further information is available here](#)

Monthly PSNC communications

This month's blog from PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes describes how his team are starting to look towards important negotiations for the autumn and winter of 2020/21.

[Read the June 2020 CEO Blog](#)

The June 2020 edition of PSNC's regular Community Pharmacy News (CPN) magazine is now available. This issue of CPN features:

- Findings and recommendations to improve the efficiency of PSN and LPCs are published;
- PSNC runs a Pharmacy Advice Audit;
- The launch of the NHS Test and Trace programme;
- A factsheet on special containers.

[Read June's CPN magazine](#)

Availability of EpiPen

Mylan have advised that to ensure continuous access to EpiPen 0.3mg auto-injectors in the UK they have, following approval from the MHRA, released a batch of US labelled auto-injectors. The auto-injector device in this batch (no. 9FM766) is exactly the same as the normal UK EpiPen in every way except for the information on the label on the device.

[Read more here](#)

Have you seen our latest COVID-19 related FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. What happens if I lose staff to illness or self-isolation and can't open my pharmacy?

NHSE&I has stated that for temporary closures (not closed-door working), for instance where not enough staff are available to work, NHSE&I must be informed immediately. The pharmacy NHS 111 Directory of Services (DoS) profile must be updated, as must the pharmacy profile on the NHS website (see the [NHS website](#)).

NHSE&I also encourages local pharmacies to work to maintain continuity of services in the event of temporary closures through 'buddy' arrangements. Further guidance is included in the [revised community pharmacy SOP](#) (updated 22nd March 2020). PSNC is discussing the need for appropriate essential funding for contractors to continue if a pharmacy is closed and staff are redeployed elsewhere. In such circumstances it will also be necessary for contractors to have special indemnity arrangements in place, and this is also part of ongoing discussions with HM Government.

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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

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