



Daily Update

Wednesday 29th July 2020

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

In today's update: ACTNow wellbeing campaign; risk assessment survey reminder.

ACTNow to look after your own wellbeing

Pharmacist Support is reminding all pharmacy staff to take some time to take care of themselves if they can.

With the COVID-19 pandemic putting extra pressure on community pharmacy teams, it can be difficult for pharmacy staff to find time to prioritise their own needs. However, earlier in the outbreak, Pharmacist Support launched a campaign to help pharmacists and pharmacy students to prioritise their wellbeing.

As part of the campaign, they added numerous resources to the **Wardley Wellbeing Hub** to help manage those every day pressures and worries, and if you **sign up to the ACTNow newsletter**, they will send you weekly wellbeing reminders.

Reminder: risk assessment progress survey

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded that the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is collecting information on progress on completing individual staff COVID-19 risk assessments, with the second (and final) window for collection **open until 11.59pm on 31st July**.

All contractors are asked to submit a declaration, even if all staff assessments were completed during the first window.

To help with completion, NHSBSA has advised that they are able to provide pharmacy head offices with a spreadsheet to enable a bulk submission. This spreadsheet can be requested by emailing: nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net

Further details on the survey – as well as staff risk assessment templates and guidance – can be found on our **PPE, staff safety and security webpage**.

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. Are pharmacy staff eligible for testing, and if so, how is this accessed?

Yes, frontline workers, including community pharmacy staff in England, can access free testing for COVID-19, via the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) national testing service. Testing will allow those currently unable to return to work because they or a member of their family or household have symptoms of coronavirus to know whether they do have the virus.

A new portal for booking COVID-19 tests for key workers, including community pharmacy team members, is now available for use by team members and employers: [Essential workers: apply for a coronavirus test \(GOV.UK\)](#)

Q. A member of my staff has told me that they have a medical condition, therefore they are asking for a risk assessment for COVID-19. I did not have any knowledge of their condition and they have never asked for any adjustments to be made to their role or work activities. Can I ask my staff member what their condition is?

The staff member does not need to disclose their condition and only needs to inform you that they have an underlying medical condition which is classed as a vulnerability in respect to COVID19. Contractors and line managers are advised not to ask any questions about the nature of the condition, e.g. the diagnosis, symptoms, investigations, or treatment that may lead to a disclosure of the staff members' medical condition. Their declaration that they have a medical condition that categorises them as vulnerable is adequate to warrant the risk assessment if they wish to have the assessment. If any staff member wishes to disclose what their condition is, you must keep it confidential and there is no need to record it as part of the risk assessment.

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

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

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