



# COVID-19 Update

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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

**In today's update: Easter Bank Holiday payment claims; testing for pharmacy staff; Health Select Committee; maintaining pharmacy services; shielded flag on SCR 1-click**

## Claim Easter Bank Holiday Opening Payment

Community pharmacy contractors are now able to claim payment for being required by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to open between 2pm to 5pm on both Good Friday (10th April 2020) and Easter Monday (13th April 2020).

Contractors must submit their claim for the £250 per hour payment using the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) between the **17th April** and **5th May 2020**, with payment due on the 1st June. This payment will **not** appear on the FP34 Schedule of Payment but NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will provide confirmation of payment via individual contractor letters.

Contractors who remained open on Good Friday 2020 and Easter Monday 2020 as per a local agreement with NHSE&I should only claim for payment as outlined above for up to 3 hours per day based on the number of hours they were open. If they were open for more than 3 hours, the balance must be claimed from the regional team as per local agreement. Pharmacy contractors must not duplicate claims for the same opening hours by claiming on MYS and through local arrangements.

## Testing for Pharmacy Staff

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced today that an online portal developed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be used to allow health and care staff, including community pharmacy staff, to book a test at one of the national test centres.

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.

Testing has been available to some community pharmacy staff over the last few weeks, where this was organised at a local level by the NHS.

The new CQC online portal will allow staff in all areas to book a test, where necessary. This online portal is a temporary facility and it will be replaced by a permanent digital booking system; further details will be provided when the new system goes live. [Learn more about how to access a test and where testing will take place](#)

## Pharmacy Mentioned at Health Committee

During an appearance at the Health Select Committee today, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said, "we've put extra funding into pharmacy - an extra £300 million - because of the challenges they face". PSNC contacted Mr Hancock to clarify that this £300 million had actually been an advance and not an addition to the contract sum. Mr Hancock agreed and commented that he had later said that it was "to help with cash flow" but apologised if this had caused confusion. PSNC is currently in negotiations with DHSC and NHSE&I about COVID-19 funding and costs impacting the community pharmacy sector.

## Maintaining Pharmacy Services

During the outbreak, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has permitted the use of [emergency regulations](#) that allow contractors temporary flexible opening hours and temporary closures of pharmacies. A minimum of 24 hours' notice is required, and NHSE&I must have agreed (or not objected) to the change or closure.

If temporary flexible opening hours and temporary closures of pharmacies may affect pharmacy service provision in an area:

1. Discussions with other contractors with nearby pharmacies may be appropriate;
2. Discussions with NHSE&I should be well in advance of any formal application or notification;
3. Seek advice from your local LPC, who should be able to assist with this process.

[See more advice on maintaining pharmacy services here](#)

## Shielded Patient Flag expanded to SCR 1-click

As previously reported, NHS Digital have added a 'Shielded Patient Flag' (previously also known as a Vulnerability flag) to the NHS Summary Care Record (SCR) of patients who are on the shielded patient list. The alert has been visible via NHS Digital's SCRa web portal.

From today it is now also available via SCR 1-click solutions. SCR 1-click is another way to access SCR information – system suppliers may allow users to view the SCR within their existing clinical system. SCR 1-click is on several systems so far: **Cegedim Pharmacy Manager**, **PharmOutcomes** and **Sonar Informatics**.

Have you seen our latest 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 an almost daily basis.

Recent additions include:

**Q. Where can I find a poster to display in my window to prevent symptomatic patients from entering the pharmacy?**

A poster can be found on the [Public Health England \(PHE\) Campaign Resource Centre website](#) to display at the entry points to your pharmacy. Please note that this poster is subject to frequent changes and updates, so please ensure you are always displaying the most up to date version. PHE are currently working on printing copies of this poster for distribution to community pharmacies and other primary care locations.

**Q. Can I claim under the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) if I don't see the patient face to face in the pharmacy?**

Patients being referred to the CPCS for minor illness consultations, are now being told by the NHS 111 health adviser to phone the pharmacy and to speak to the pharmacist. Unless there is a clinical need for the patient to be seen in the pharmacy, the pharmacist can provide a consultation by telephone, as is provided for in the service specification. If the consultation is conducted in this manner, the pharmacy is eligible to claim the fee for provision of the service.

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

Keep up-to-date with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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