



COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 5th May 2020

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

In today's update: safety net indemnity applies to community pharmacy; NHSE&I webinar; Yellow Card reporting site for COVID-19 treatments; keeping your NHS website entry up-to-date

DHSC confirms the Government's safety net indemnity applies to community pharmacy

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that community pharmacy is covered by the Government's safety net indemnity provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020. DHSC has confirmed that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (SoS) has made arrangements with NHS Resolution for the safety net indemnity to apply to community pharmacy, confirming that:

....where COVID related activity on behalf of the NHS is not covered [by existing indemnity arrangements], lawyers have confirmed that the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (CVA) cover community pharmacy teams.

The Coronavirus Act does give the Secretary of State powers to provide or arrange for the provision of the indemnity described in the Act, but the question is whether those powers have been exercised – whether the Secretary of State has in fact provided or arranged for the provision of that safety net indemnity. DHSC has confirmed that it has been arranged.

PSNC has asked for details of the claim procedure for community pharmacy and requested that the wording of a related FAQ on NHS Resolution's website is clarified. DHSC has confirmed it is looking at the way they have answered the question in the FAQs and will come back to PSNC on the developing claim procedure. Further information is available from the [NPA](#) and [PDA](#).

[Learn more here](#)

NHSE&I Community Pharmacy Webinar

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are holding their next COVID-19 preparedness webinar for community pharmacy teams, hosted by Keith Ridge and Ed Waller, **tomorrow** (Wednesday 6th May), 7pm to 8pm.

[Click to join the NHSE&I webinar on Wednesday evening](#)

Yellow Card Reporting for Products Used to Treat COVID-19

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has launched a dedicated Yellow Card reporting site for healthcare products that are used in Coronavirus (COVID-19) treatment to be easily reported: coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk.

Healthcare professionals are asked to report all suspected side effects to medicines or medical device adverse incidents related to COVID-19 treatment. This also includes medicines that patients and healthcare professionals are using off-label to treat COVID-19. Reporting for clinical trials should be in line with the trial protocols.

Reporting will enable the MHRA to rapidly identify new and emerging side effects and medical device issues which may not have been previously known about, including diagnostic tests for COVID-19. This includes any medicines taken by patients to manage long-term, or pre-existing conditions that may influence the disease or have any potential interactions. The MHRA is closely monitoring any new or emerging safety signals in relation to medicines and medical devices used in patients with COVID-19.

[Learn more about the Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#)

Updating the NHS Website

With more patients using online services due to COVID-19, it is important to keep the opening times on your NHS website profile up-to-date and to reflect any temporary closures. NHS Digital's [step-by-step guide](#) explains how to make adjustments.

Note that making changes to the Directory of Services (**DoS**) will **not** automatically adjust your NHS website opening hours.

Further guidance can be found at: psnc.org.uk/nhswebsite

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. Do distance selling pharmacies have to open 2-5pm on the bank holidays too?

Yes, the announcement applies to all pharmacies in England except LPS pharmacies. (LPS pharmacies have a formal contract that already specifies which hours they must open on bank holidays.)

Q. We are unable to source additional PPE supplies through national wholesalers; how do we obtain additional supplies to protect our pharmacy team?

Additional quantities of Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSM), from the PHE stockpile, were delivered to AAH, Alliance Healthcare and Phoenix Healthcare on Thursday 9th April 2020. This stock is to be sold to pharmacy contractors for staff use (the stock must not be sold on to members of the public). However, please note the [update on availability of PPE from wholesalers \(29th April 2020\)](#).

Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) have received a push of PPE supplies to respond to local spikes in need, including those in social care and primary care, where there are current blockages in the supply chain. The PPE stock provided to LRFs is to support urgent need in vital services, such as community pharmacies, which are not linked to the NHS Supply Chain. This PPE is intended to support service providers which have exhausted their usual routes for PPE and there remains an urgent need for additional stock. Contact your LPC for advice on whether you can access stock from the LRF.

In addition, any organisation running critically short of PPE, and that has exhausted other supply routes, can phone the National Supply Distribution Response (NSDR) on 0800 915 9964 for an urgent delivery.

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

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: info@psnc.org.uk