



# COVID-19 Update

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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: PSNC CEO video message; market entry activity resumed; new HEE resources**

### **PSNC CEO Video Message**

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded a new video message for community pharmacy teams to explain some of the work that he and his team are doing on behalf of the sector.

In the video, Simon confirms that negotiations on additional funding for the sector are ongoing, and he describes how discussions with DHSC and NHSE&I are now also turning to the expected next phases of the pandemic in the UK.

[Watch the video message](#)

### **Market Entry Activity Resumed**

Today, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has announced that, as part of its overall recovery plan to restore services paused during the lockdown, staff are now being returned to their Market Entry roles and resuming work to process applications and that full market entry function will be resumed from 1 June 2020.

Many of those with existing application have received letters from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) this week and it is understood that priority will be given to those with applications relating to – business or pharmacy service continuity – or where there are pressing reasons for the contractor.

Business or pharmacy service continuity could include consolidations, closures (for example, as part of a business merger), relocations and change of ownership applications. Pressing reasons for contractors might involve, for example, issues associated with leases and health and safety requirements (e.g. social distancing concerns).

Granted applications where deadlines have passed or where they are close – and, for example, where there is a Notice of Commencement – and other related issues should be raised urgently with NHSE&I. PSNC may also be able to assist with advice on the regulations. NHSE&I are seeking to take a pragmatic and fair approach to resolving any issues, with national oversight, and are taking mitigating steps so that issues for contractors and other applicants are minimised.

NHSE&I and PSNC are also seeking changes to the NHS regulations to assist the process for contractors as the practical difficulties of keeping to specified timescales during the COVID-19 outbreak may continue.

For more information see our [clarification announcement on 28 April 2020](#).

For any queries, please contact [Gordon Hockey, PSNC's Director of Operations and Support](#).

## New HEE Resources

Health Education England's (HEE) Pharmacy Team has developed a number of resources to support the continuing educational needs of pharmacy professionals.

### COVID-19 pharmacy learning and development guide

HEE has developed a signposting guide for pharmacy students, pre-registration trainees, tutors and employers to refer to during the pandemic. The guide, which will be updated regularly, brings together useful information about the status, next steps and online resources available for various pharmacy-related training courses.

### [Guide to pharmacy learning and professional development during COVID-19](#)

### Training for NHS 111 'PharmCAS' Service

The NHS is redeploying pharmacists from other settings, including community pharmacy and CCGs, into a new NHS 111 COVID-19 Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) to help with the additional demand due to the pandemic. The service will be used for patients who require a discussion with a clinician following their use of NHS 111.

HEE have been working to ensure that pharmacists entering the NHS 111 'PharmCAS' have access to appropriate training materials. The HEE Integrated Urgent Care (IUC) Workforce Development Programme, delivered by the University of Derby, is now available as an introductory course, with selected modules and materials made available as a free online educational and information resource. This short course aims to introduce pharmacists to the IUC setting.

Pharmacists wishing to further develop their knowledge and skills in this area can also [apply for the full training course](#) at the University of Derby.

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. How will I claim for opening on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May) between 2-5pm?**

Claims for payment for this service must be made between 25 May 2020 and 22 June 2020 via the Manage Your Service (MYS) platform provided by the NHSBSA.

The NHSBSA will make appropriate payments on 1 July 2020. The payment will not be separately itemised on the FP34 Schedule of Payments. However, the NHSBSA will issue letters to contractors who claimed to inform them of the payment made to them.

**Q. If I open as directed at another time of the day and open between 2-5pm, may I claim for both?**

Yes. The payment for the other opening will need to be claimed using the local procedure in place for this direction.

**Q. What if I was directed locally to open for longer hours?**

Contractors who remained open on the bank holiday as per a local agreement with NHSE&I should only claim for payment 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.

**Q. If I have been directed to open, do I claim payment for the directed hours or the national announcement?**

Pharmacies are able to claim a payment for opening for at least three hours. If you were open for 3 hours, you should claim only once – the national announcement takes precedence and the claim should be made through that route.

[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)

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