



# COVID-19 Update

Monday 18<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: new COVID-19 symptom; learning resources from CPPE; Pandemic Delivery Service guidance.

### Loss of smell or taste recognised as COVID-19 symptom

A **joint statement** from the four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland announced that from today a new symptom has been added to guidance advising the public on when to self-isolate. As of today, any individuals who develop a new continuous cough, or fever, or experiences a loss of smell or taste (Anosmia), should self-isolate immediately.

In their joint statement the CMOs state 'Anosmia is the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked.'

In line with current guidelines, all the members of the individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days unless the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.

#### [Learn more about the new symptom](#)

### CPPE COVID-19 learning resources

In direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has created a **COVID-19 learning resource hub** that aims to enable you to find all the resources that you may need as quickly and easily as possible.

The hub offers a collection of resources for a variety of situations that you, as a pharmacy professional, may find yourself in, for example returning to pharmacy practice, looking for the latest COVID-19 resources, and seeking support or resilience.

Key resources include:

- **[Guide to returning to pharmacy practice](#)** – supporting pharmacy professionals returning to community or hospital pharmacy after a gap in professional service.
- **[COVID-19 gateway page](#)** – including links to the key NHS and Public Health England web pages that will help you keep up to date with the current situation, as well as more specific clinical guidance and information on medicines.

- [Resilience webpage](#) – containing lots of information about how to build resilience and deal with stressful situations.

You can access all of the above from [CPPE's new COVID-19 learning resource hub](#).

### **Inhaler technique e-learning**

Additionally, please note that the *Inhaler technique for health professionals e-learning* and [assessment](#) from CPPE has been updated in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This learning may be useful for better supporting people with respiratory problems during this difficult time.

## **Providing the Pandemic Delivery Service**

The Pandemic Delivery Service went live on 9th April 2020 and early feedback from several contractors shows there is still confusion over patients' eligibility and the process to confirm patient inclusion in the service. In addition, the use of volunteers is still very variable, but the NHS remains committed to ensuring their use during the pandemic.

To support contractors, PSNC has developed the following resources:

- [An overview of the service](#) – depicting the procedure to follow when offering various elements of the service as a flowchart.
- [A digital guide](#) – talking you through both the changes to the terms of service and the new Advanced service, as well as covering a number of key issues such as how to identify eligible patients and the use of volunteers.
- [Key points on the service](#) – outlining what contractors need to be aware of when delivering the service.

Further information can be found on our [Pandemic Delivery Service webpage](#).

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 PSNC ensure funding for MURs and NMS isn't lost?**

In line with the announcement on the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF), NHSE&I and DHSC agreed a five-year deal for community pharmacies, guaranteeing funding levels until 2023/24. Under this agreement it was announced that Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) would be decommissioned at the end of March 2021 with the funding associated to be reinvested into community pharmacy to keep the overall funding sum at £2.592bn. For the year 2020/21 the budget for MURs will be reduced, with a maximum of 100 MURs permitted per pharmacy, but fees associated with the service will stay the same. The New Medicine Service (NMS) remains within the CPCF and both the budget allocation and the fees associated with the service will be maintained.

Where the notional budgets for MUR and NMS are not spent, the unused funding is distributed to contractors via other fees and allowances, so the funding is not lost to the sector.

[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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