



COVID-19 Update

Wednesday 17th June 2020

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

In today's update: Matt Hancock pharmacy visit; reminder to share COVID-19 innovation; parallel export ban for dexamethasone.

Secretary of State thanks community pharmacy teams for their COVID-19 efforts

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, yesterday visited a community pharmacy to thank the team and wider sector for all the work they have been doing through the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a visit to Market Chemist in London, Mr Hancock heard from Shiraz Mohamed, an independent community pharmacy contractor, about how his pharmacy has been helping the local community throughout the pandemic. Ensuring that patients have access to the medicines they need has been critical – and this can be supported through services such as electronic Repeat Dispensing – and pharmacies have had to find new ways of working to cope with increased demand for medicines and advice.

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, said:

"Pharmacists have been at the forefront of supporting people through this pandemic, and I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of them for supporting this country and their local community.

"Traditional face-to-face services really matter and, combined with embracing technology and innovation, they have been central to how pharmacies have continued to serve their communities. In doing so, they have kept people safe and well."

[Read more about Matt Hancock's pharmacy visit](#)

Reminder to share your innovative ways of working

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that they have until **Thursday 25th June** to share examples of beneficial changes – whether clinical, operational or system based – that they have implemented during the response to COVID-19.

A survey from NHS England and NHS Improvement aims to make sure these innovations are captured, evaluated and, where possible and appropriate, sustained for the future.

[Share your beneficial innovation examples](#)

Dexamethasone cannot be parallel exported from UK

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced that two additional formulations of **Dexamethasone (oral solution and solution for injection (all strengths))** have been added to the list of medicines which must not be parallel exported from the UK. The additional restrictions came into place from 16th June 2020.

[View the full parallel export ban list here](#)

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 an almost daily basis. Recent additions include:

Q. How will PSNC use this experience to negotiate appropriate levels of funding for community pharmacy?

PSNC recognises that we need to have a full and frank discussion with NHSE&I and DHSC about how the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and community pharmacy's response to it, should inform the future of the sector. The NHS is relying on something that, given the funding and capacity issues we have previously highlighted to Government, should not be taken for granted. Those underlying issues still need to be addressed.

Our first job is to ensure community pharmacies have enough financial support to get us through COVID-19, and then we can turn to a full review of the Contractual Framework. We hope the huge amount of work we have done with officials this month will make future negotiations and decisions easier to navigate, but we absolutely recognise that there is more to do to persuade the NHS of pharmacy's importance and value.

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

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

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