



# COVID-19 Update

Friday 26th 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: staff risk assessments required urgently; Pharmacy Representation Review webinar; new resource on special container updates; GPhC advice on COVID-19 antibody testing.**

## **NHSE&I request urgent completion of staff risk assessments**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have written to NHS providers, including community pharmacy contractors, requesting the urgent completion of staff risk assessments.

In light of the new risks to healthcare staff posed by the COVID-19 outbreak, [the letter from NHSE&I](#) outlines the responsibilities of employers as well as the support available to help them.

In particular, NHSE&I set a deadline saying that individual risk assessments for at least staff in at-risk groups (including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff) should be completed **within the next four weeks**.

[Read more about staff risk assessments](#)

## **Last chance to register for Pharmacy Review webinar**

Contractors are reminded that Professor David Wright will be hosting a [webinar on the independent review into community pharmacy contractor representation and support](#) on **Monday 29th June at 7pm**.

Professor Wright, who is Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the School of Pharmacy at the University of East Anglia, will talk through the recommendations that he has made following his review, explaining why he made them. He will also answer questions live.

## **New PSNC resource: Changes to special container status**

Following a review of the special container status of certain products, the Department of Health of Social Care (DHSC) has re-determined a number of products (24 products between May and July) now meet the special container criteria as set out in Part II Clause 10B of the Drug Tariff.

For a list of all the monthly changes to special container status of products, contractors can now visit our new page: [psnc.org.uk/SCupdates](https://psnc.org.uk/SCupdates). To assist pharmacy teams and provide full visibility PSNC will be providing monthly updates on products that are reclassified as special containers.

## GPhC advice on COVID-19 antibody testing

Contractors are encouraged to review the updated Q&As on antibody test kits and antibody testing on the [General Pharmaceutical Council \(GPhC\) website](https://www.gphc.org.uk/). There is a clear expectation from GPhC that pharmacies will adhere to published guidance from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Public Health England. Where they do not, members of the public are being advised to raise a concern with GPhC and report the matter to MHRA.

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

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