



Daily Update

Friday 2nd October 2020

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

In today's update: PQS Aspiration payment; CEO Blog; CPN magazine; Changes to regulations on single use plastics; PPE portal reminder.

One week left to claim PQS Part 2 Aspiration payment

Community pharmacy contractors have ONE week left to claim an Aspiration payment for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2020/21 Part 2 as the window for claiming this payment closes on **9th October 2020 at 23:59**.

Contractors who wish to, can claim an Aspiration payment for this scheme, to assist with cash flow. The Aspiration payment can be claimed through the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#). To qualify, contractors will have to declare that they will complete PQS Part 1 and they will need to decide which domains they intend to meet at the February 2021 declaration period.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have confirmed in their PQS guidance that the Aspiration payment will be paid to contractors on 30th October 2020.

[Learn more about claiming the Aspiration payment](#)

PSNC CEO Blog

In this month's blog, PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes considers the frustrating delay in support for COVID-19 costs, whilst being encouraged by announcements on CPCS and a new pathway to independent prescribing.

[Read the September 2020 CEO Blog](#)

September CPN

The September 2020 edition of PSNC's regular Community Pharmacy News (CPN) magazine is now available. This issue of CPN features:

- Huge demand for flu vaccination service;
- Pharmacy advice saves GPs' time and workload;
- Changes to Advanced services; and
- Prescription rechecks factsheet.

[Read September's CPN magazine](#)

Changes to regulations on single use plastic straws and plastic stemmed cotton buds

Contractors are advised that it is now an offence for a person in the course of business to supply, or offer to supply, **single use plastic straws** or **single-use plastic stemmed cotton buds**, subject to two key exemptions for community pharmacy.

First, this does not apply to the supply of any of these products by a healthcare professional for medical purposes, nor use of them by a healthcare professional or under their direction for medical purposes, nor where they are part of a relevant medical device. A healthcare professional includes a pharmacist and a pharmacy technician.

Second, retail pharmacies may supply **single use plastic straws** if they are not advertised, they are not kept where customers can see them (but display online by a pharmacy is permitted), customers cannot access them, and they are only offered, or provided, to customers who request them.

Existing stock of all these products purchased before 30 April may be supplied until 31 October this year.

[More information is available here](#)

Reminder: All COVID-19 PPE now available free of charge via portal

Pharmacy contractors are reminded that the Government's PPE portal can now be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) they need; the supplies will be provided free of charge.

So far, a minority of contractors have registered on the portal, so many pharmacy teams are yet to take up the offer of free of charge PPE supplies; PSNC encourages contractors to register on the portal as soon as possible.

[Find out more about the PPE portal](#)

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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