



# Daily Update

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

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

**In today's update: Discharge Medicines Service guidance published; PQS and service changes agreed to create extra capacity; Pandemic Delivery Service restarts for patients in Tier 4; and Community Pharmacy News.**

## Discharge Medicines Service guidance published

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have today confirmed that the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) will not become an Essential service for contractors until **15th February 2021** and they have published guidance on the service.

The decision to launch the DMS in mid-February followed representations from PSNC recognising the pressures that contractors are under and the time needed to prepare for a new service.

### [Read the NHSE&I regulations guidance](#)

Alongside the guidance on the DMS, in January 2021, NHSE&I will publish a DMS Toolkit for hospitals, Primary Care Networks, community pharmacy teams and others involved in the rollout of the service.

From 15th February 2021, NHS Trusts will be able to refer patients who would benefit from extra guidance around new prescribed medicines for provision of the DMS at their community pharmacy.

NHSE&I will initially adopt a light touch approach to contractual assurance with regards to the service and contractors should also note that not all Trusts will be fully ready to make referrals at the time the service commences.

Contractors providing the full service will be paid **a fee of £35**. Where only part of the service can be provided, in certain circumstances defined in the Drug Tariff, contractors will be paid a partial payment; you can find further details on the [DMS page of the PSNC website](#).

Contractors will also be paid **a setup fee of £400** to cover the costs of preparing to provide the service, principally training staff and putting in place a standard operating procedure for the service.

### [Read more on this story](#)

## PQS and service changes agreed

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have agreed to PSNC's request for more flexible timings for completion of the work within the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Part 2 2020/21 and the removal of some Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) requirements for 2020/21.

The following changes have been agreed to provide additional capacity for contractors to implement the [Discharge Medicines Service](#) on 15th February 2021 and to support the ongoing provision of key pharmacy services during the pandemic:

1. The PQS Part 2 2020/21 declaration will still take place as planned between 09:00 on 1st February 2021 and 23:59 on 26th February 2021, however, contractors will have until **30th June 2021** to complete any elements of the scheme they have declared as having met. Following their declaration, contractors will still receive any PQS payment due as part of the overall payment made by the NHSBSA to contractors on 1st April 2021;
2. Contractors are not required to complete an NHSE&I determined national clinical audit during 2020/21;
3. Contractors are not required to undertake a contractor chosen clinical audit during 2020/21;
4. Contractors are not required to undertake the Community Pharmacy Patient Questionnaire during 2020/21;
5. The Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework will not run in 2020/21, but this will run as normal in 2021/22; and
6. No action will be taken against contractors who have not completed the Data Security and Protection toolkit for 2019/20, provided they are working to complete the toolkit for 2020/21. Contractors have an extended deadline for completion of the 2020/21 toolkit, with submissions required by 30th June 2021.

### [Read more on this story](#)

## Pandemic Delivery Service restarts for patients in Tier 4

The Government has issued [new advice to people living in the Tier 4 areas who are clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) to COVID-19](#) (those previously referred to as shielded patients). This advises them to recommence shielding.

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable, living in Tier 4, are being advised by the Government not to go to a pharmacy, and as a consequence of this new advice, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has decided to **restart the Pandemic Delivery Service from 21st December 2020 until 18th January 2021**.

The service only applies to CEV patients living in Tier 4 areas in London, the South East and East of England. The Terms of Service requirements apply to all contractors in England (excluding Distance Selling Pharmacies), but as the only CEV patients that are eligible for support with deliveries are those living in the Tier 4 areas, only contractors located within those areas are likely to provide services to eligible patients on a regular basis.

This change to the service requirements was announced yesterday (21st December 2020), in [a letter published by NHS England and NHS Improvement](#).

Contractors located in Tier 4 areas will receive the Essential service payment for the days the service is active, as set out in Part VIA of the Drug Tariff.

[Read more on this story](#)

## CPN Magazine: December

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

- Chief Executive's blog
- Cross-party MP pharmacy funding warning
- Pharmacy and COVID-19 vaccinations
- Is it allowed Factsheet

[Read CPN magazine](#)

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)

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