

Pharmacy Bulletin



Friday 22nd May 2020

NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

**STAY
SAFE**

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

- New Operational Model to help Implement Care Home Guidance...[HERE](#)
- New Guidance for Providers for People who use Drugs or Alcohol...[HERE](#)
- Annual Flu Letter Published 2020-21...[HERE](#)
- Increase of Category 'M' Reimbursement...[HERE](#)
- Government Safety Net Indemnity...[HERE](#)
- Market Entry Activity Resumed...[HERE](#)
- Bank Holidays...[HERE](#)
 - Claims for May 8th
 - Upcoming BH Monday May 25th.
- Life Assurance Scheme Extended to Cover Pharmacy Teams...[HERE](#)
- £300 for Staff Protection (Barrier Screens)...[HERE](#)
- CAS Alert's...[HERE](#)
- TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT ...[HERE](#)
 - EPS and eRD
 - NHS 111 'PharmCAS' Service
 - Inhaler Technique e-Learning

Ramadan...

Despite the additional pressure on the NHS, it is essential that considerations be made for the health and well-being of Muslim team members during this time to allow for the safe observation of a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community

>A useful guide to support: [HERE](#).

COVID-19

- **General Case Definition:** Updated to include loss of or change in smell or taste. It is now: New continuous cough OR fever OR loss of/ change in smell or taste. Everyone, including health and social care workers, should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or loss of/ change in smell or taste. The individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days as per the current guidelines and the individual should stay at home for 7 days, or longer if they still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste.
- HEE have developed a C-19 Learning & Development Guide, [HERE](#), which provides next steps and online resources available for pharmacy teams.
- Pharmacy teams should ensure they keep up to date with the latest guidance on the [GOV.UK website](#).
- Implement the C-19 SOP (most up to date version: 22.03.20), [HERE](#).

Guidance for Temporary Closures...

With more people using online services due to COVID-19, it is important to keep the opening times on your NHS website profile up to date and to reflect any temporary closures.

To help you update, NHS.UK have created guidance on how to manage temporary closures on your NHS website profile, attached or [HERE](#).

Please can all contractors also ensure to update the relevant Directory of Services (DoS) team for your area (i.e. Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset or Avon), and liaise with local GP practices and other relevant services.

Please note that for DEVON & CORNWALL pharmacies this will be via the RAG updater and for everyone else via the relevant DoS telephone numbers previously provided (See Annex C information, attached)

FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURES, this need only be done once, in accordance with above and the overarching SOP (unless something changes). *CONTRACTORS NEED NOT NOTIFY DAILY (unless something changes).*

FOR STANDARD 'ONE OFF' UNPLANNED CLOSURES, please can all contractors report in the usual way (via PharmOutcomes – both the closing and reopening forms) or using the paper form (on our website, [HERE](#)) sending to our mailbox: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

New Operational Model to help Implement Care Home Guidance...

A [new operational model](#) to help pharmacy and medicines teams implement the NHS England and NHS Improvement [guidance 'Primary Care and Community Health Support for Care Homes'](#) is now available. It sets out pharmacy contribution to the work and how teams should collaborate across the NHS system, providing practical advice and resources. The work is being led and coordinated in each area by the CCG lead.

Annual Flu Letter Published for 2020-21...

The Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England and NHS England and NHS Improvement have jointly published a [letter](#) to provide further information on the national flu immunisation programme for 2020–21. The letter notes that the impact of COVID-19 on the NHS and social care has been visible to all, and this coming winter we may be faced with co-circulation of COVID-19 and flu. Those most at risk from flu are also most vulnerable to COVID-19 therefore, flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions. The NHS must reduce pressure on the health and social care system this winter. **The letter also outlines the vaccines agreed for use during the 2020-21 Programme: it will be more important than ever to ensure enough stocks of the recommended adult flu vaccines have been ordered for your eligible patients, as it is anticipated that concerns about COVID-19 may increase demand for flu vaccination in all groups.**

Guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol...

COVID-19 guidance for commissioners and service providers for those dependent on drugs or alcohol has been published. The updated guidance highlights that people who misuse or are dependent on drugs and alcohol may also be at increased risk of becoming infected, and infecting others, with coronavirus (COVID-19). People in these groups may also be more vulnerable to poor health outcomes due to underlying conditions. Pharmacists who provide services to support people dependent on drugs or alcohol are encouraged to ensure they are familiar with the guidance. [Learn more and read the guidance here](#) (via PSNC).

Jump Back to the Top of this Bulletin, [HERE](#).

Drug/disease pitfalls to avoid during any acute illness during COVID-19 epidemic
Drawn from material across GPCPD.com and a large dose of pragmatism

Remember: non-COVID diseases still happen with the same frequency during a pandemic! Be alert for them!

Work prioritisation during COVID-19 epidemic
Based on RCGP/BMA guidance 23/3/2020

Remote initial assessment for ALL. If seen F2F, keep possible COVID and non-COVID patients separate



Life Assurance Scheme Extended to Cover Pharmacy Teams...More Info [HERE](#).

This provides life assurance benefits for eligible NHS and social care staff who are performing frontline work during the COVID-19 pandemic and includes: registered pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, dispensing assistants and medicine counter assistants. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Association of Pharmacy Technicians in the UK have published a joint statement, [HERE](#).

Updated Guidance on Government Safety Net Indemnity...

...for volunteers delivering medicines to shielded, vulnerable and other patients. If volunteers are not covered by a pharmacy's indemnity insurance arrangements, they will be covered by the Governments safety net indemnity. More info via NHS Resolution, [HERE](#). Details of claim procedure to follow.

There has been no National Direction issued for pharmacies to open on the **upcoming Bank Holiday Monday (25.05.2020)**.

We wish to thank all pharmacy teams for their support generally and in providing cover on the previous Bank Holidays as per National Directions.

The window for **8th May Bank Holiday** claim will be open on [MYS](#) between 25th May and 22nd June to make claims accordingly.

These are just some of the 'COVID-19 Pearls' available for pharmacy contractors from Red Whale, [HERE](#).

If you are not an existing user, you will need to register – Add 'RWGIFT' to the activation code field.

Pearls are then found within 'online hand-books'.



...Safety and Learning...

PDF's attached.

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TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT.

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) Release 4 and electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)... **MORE INFO COMING SOON**

Many practices are already using electronic repeat prescribing but the number of patients is set to increase in response to COVID-19 as the NHSBSA is helping practices to identify more patients who could be eligible for the service.

- ❖ Do you and your team **understand** the differences between paper repeat dispensing and **eRD**?
- ❖ Do you understand what EPS Release 4 is and **what to do** if you need to locate a prescription?

Virtual Outcomes have devised a module to support...[HERE](#).



Training for NHS 111 'PharmCAS' Service...

The NHS is redeploying pharmacists from other settings, including community pharmacy and CCGs, into a new NHS 111 COVID-19 Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) to help with the additional demand due to the pandemic. The service will be used for patients who require a discussion with a clinician following their use of NHS 111.

HEE have been working to ensure that pharmacists entering the NHS 111 'PharmCAS' have access to appropriate training materials. The HEE Integrated Urgent Care (IUC) Workforce Development Programme, delivered by the University of Derby, is now available as an introductory course, with selected modules and materials made available as a free online educational and information resource. This short course aims to introduce pharmacists to the IUC setting.

Pharmacists wishing to further develop their knowledge and skills in this area can also apply for the full training course at the University of Derby, [HERE](#).

Inhaler Technique e-Learning...

The Inhaler technique for health professionals [e-learning and assessment](#) from CPPE has been updated considering the COVID-19 pandemic. This learning may be useful for better supporting people with respiratory problems during this difficult time.

Given the [potential for transmission of infection via saliva](#) at this time, please remember to think about infection control if reviewing inhaler technique and make use of options such as <https://www.rightbreathe.com/> which is also available as a phone app.

Jump Back to the Top of this Bulletin, [HERE](#).

[£300 for Staff Protection \(Barrier Screens\)...](#)

Most contractors will have received this payment on 1st May 2020. Whilst it was not itemised on the FP34 Schedule of Payments, the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has sent letters to contractors confirming the payment.

Any contractors who have temporarily closed their pharmacy for more than two weeks since 31st March 2020 but made adjustments for social distancing prior to or shortly after the closure, will need to claim the £300 payment by 5th August 2020 using [the appropriate NHSBSA claim form](#)

[Increase of Category M Reimbursement Prices...](#)

Category M reimbursement prices are being increased by £15 million per month from 1 June 2020. This is outside of the usual 3 monthly cycle, for Category M reimbursement price updates. More info via the NHSBSA, [HERE](#).

CAS Alerts...

URGENT ACTION REQ'D: SSP's Issued for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules...

[SSP06](#) was introduced Wed 20th May, recommends two fluoxetine 20mg capsules may be supplied against prescriptions for fluoxetine 40 mg capsules. Please ensure you read the SSP in full, [HERE](#).

Ranitidine:

Ranitidine film-coated tablets, effervescent tablets and oral solution continue to be unavailable, while the 50mg/2ml injection is expected to be out of stock from the end of May.

Clinical advice on alternatives of Ranitidine preparations for adults and children has been shared in the previous supply disruption alert [SDA/2019/005 \(U2\)](#).

Salazopyrin® 500mg Suppositories:

Supply issue due to an increase in demand. The alert, [HERE](#), contains advice on the management of affected patients.

[Market Entry Activity Resumed...](#)

As part of NHS England & NHS Improvement's recovery plan to restore services during lockdown, work to process applications and full market entry function will resume from 1st June 2020.

[COVID -19, Guidance for dealing with Returned Meds...](#)

Community pharmacies routinely accept unwanted/out-of-date/waste medicines for disposal from patients and households. This is a NHS contractual requirement and as such, the service has not been suspended during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please see, [HERE](#), for more info.

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Please see our website for more information and any blank templates, forms and documents.

NHS England South West (South): Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Bristol, Dorset, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire - [HERE](#)

NHS England South West (North) : BaNES, Gloucestershire, Swindon or Wiltshire - [HERE](#)

For reference available documents include: Forms for requesting changes to Core or Supplementary hours; Blank unplanned closure form; MUR/NMS blank templates; Translation & Interpretation Guidance; Significant Incident reporting form and Serious Difficulty application forms...