

Pharmacy Bulletin



Friday 26th June 2020

NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

**STAY
SAFE**

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mirtazapine/lacosamide/phenelzine sulphate

LOOK HERE



...Supporting our #NHSPeople is now more important than ever, **attached** you will find some links for information and support that may help yourself and your teams during this time.

Government Announces plans for Change to Shielding...

As you will be aware, there have been some important changes announced for Shielded Patients. There will be a two-stage change for patients with shielded status. It is possible this will create several queries from these patients, as they continue to access the services you and your team provide. The basic guidance for Shielded Patients is outlined below (**full details, attached**). We hope this helps you respond to and allay any concerns Shielded Patients may raise with you.

Shielding guidance will be relaxed in two stages, subject to clinical evidence. The new advice to shielded patients will now be:

- **From 6 July:**
 - You may, if you wish, meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from different households, while maintaining strict social distancing;
 - You no longer need to observe social distancing with other members of your household;
 - In line with the wider guidance for single adult households (either an adult living alone or with dependent children under 18) in the general population, you may from this date, if you wish, also form a 'support bubble' with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time together inside each other's homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance. This change brings those affected a step nearer others in their communities.
 - However, all the other current shielding advice will remain unchanged at this time.
- **From 1 August:**
 - The advice to 'shield' will be paused. From this date, the Government is advising you to adopt strict social distancing rather than full shielding measures. Strict social distancing means you may wish to go out to more places and see more people, but you should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside your household or support bubble.
 - You can go to work, if you cannot work from home, as long as the business is COVID-safe;
 - Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can return to their education settings if they are eligible and in line with their peers. Where possible children should practise frequent hand washing and social distancing;
 - You can go outside to shop; to places of worship and for exercise but you should maintain strict social distancing; and
 - You should remain cautious as you are still at risk of severe illness if you catch Coronavirus, so the advice is to stay at home where possible and, if you do go out, follow strict social distancing.
 - The categorisation of 'clinically extremely vulnerable' will remain in place and people in this cohort should continue to follow the guidance specific to them. After 1 August, the Shielded Patient List will remain. We will monitor the virus continuously over coming months and if it spreads too much, we may need to advise this group to shield again.
 - Everybody in the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' categorisation will be written to from today outlining these steps.

The attachment includes more information on the changes have been announced now and recognises that there was feedback from charities, patient groups and social care stakeholders that lifting measures without a lead-in time could cause anxiety and confusion. We are aware that trust is a key issue for shielding individuals so, as trusted voices amongst patients and their families, your support for this roadmap would be invaluable. We hope you feel confident to share information on this announcement and advocate for the roadmap.

>See PDF for full Details.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Latest Guidance on Use of Face Masks...

Needing help and advice with Infection, Prevention and Control considering Covid-19?...Click, [HERE](#), to watch the playback of our live event with useful Q&A Section. (Q&A document to follow)



C-19: Video Guide (YouTube) to Putting On and Taking Off PPE...[HERE](#)

Please note that although it states 'a guide for care homes' the principles remain the same for pharmacy and/or other clinical teams.

Public Health England (PHE) has published the government policy recommendations, based on evidence presented to the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, [for hospital settings](#) including use of face coverings for those visiting hospitals and face masks for staff when in non-clinical areas.

For pharmacy contractors the advice published by Public Health England on the use of Personal Protective Equipment in a pharmacy setting, can be found [HERE](#). (PDF also attached).

Psychological First Aid Training...

Staff and volunteers at the forefront of the national COVID-19 response across England can now access a free [Psychological First Aid training course](#). This free online training has been developed by Public Health England and will equip staff to provide support and recognise people at risk of distress. This follows a globally recommended model for supporting people during emergencies, tailored to the specific challenges of COVID-19. Since the launch of the course on Monday 15 June, more than 8,700 people have already enrolled. You can access the training materials through the [Future Learn website](#).

Health Education England (HEE) Learning Hub....

HEE has launched a new digital platform that enables the health and care workforce to share and access resources more easily during the C-19 pandemic.

The [learning hub](#) has been designed around user's needs with new features being added frequently. Users will also be able to contribute digital resources including e-learning, video, audio, images, web links and articles. Similarly, many stakeholders including CCGs and professional bodies and charities have already contributed a range of resources.

Inclusion & Diversity Strategy...

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has published a report on [Inclusion and Diversity](#) for pharmacy 2020-2025. Its initiatives support both immediate and long-term changes based on three priorities: creating a culture of belonging, championing inclusive and authentic leadership; and challenging inclusion & diversity barriers. The report sets out the actions needed to bring about real and lasting change.

IMPORTANT – Receipt of Communications form NHSE/I...

We have had reported that some Community Pharmacy staff are not receiving our important emails – can you please ensure that all pharmacies open their NHS Email Net Accounts Daily and disseminate any updates to their staff, especially on Covid19 Updates and any CAS alerts. Pharmacies are missing vital daily communications sent to them.

Test & Trace, and Minimising the Spread of Infection...

NHSE/I have written to Healthcare providers, [HERE](#), to outline the plans put in place to minimize nosocomial infections (e.g. Covid-19), including through NHS Test and Trace Programme, and the management of outbreaks.

PSNC has updated (version 2) of its risk assessment template, which will help identify further potential changes to the pharmacy environment to increase the safety of pharmacy teams and patients. [Download the template](#).

Look-Alike, Sound-Alike (LASA) Errors...The 'A' Listers...

Look-Alike, Sound-Alike medicines are those that can commonly be miss-selected during the dispensing process due to their similar names or similar looking packaging. LASA dispensing errors are one of the most common causes of medication errors. Please see the **attached PDF** of LASA drugs that begin with the letter A and tries to encourage a different approach to seeing the names using a method that is called 'tall man' lettering where mixed case lettering is used on the shelf/medicine to help identify a specific medicine. More info, [HERE](#).

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Medicine	Out of Stock Until...	Summary Advice (see PDFs, attached, for full detail)
Ranitidine: All formulations	TBC	Clinical advice of alternatives of oral ranitidine prep for adults and children and updated clinical advice re. alternative ranitidine preparations are attached.
Lodoxamide (Alomide) 1% eye drops	W/C 24th Aug 20	Sodium cromoglycate eye drops and various antihistamine eye drops remain available.
Mirtazapine 15mg and 45mg orodispersible tablets	End July 20	Unlicensed imports of mirtazapine orodispersible tablets have been sourced. Mirtazapine 15mg, 30mg and 45mg tablets remain available.
Imipramine 25mg tablets	Early Aug 20	Imipramine 10mg tablets remain available. Unlicensed imports of imipramine 25mg tablets have been sourced.
Lacosamide (Vimpat) 50mg tablets	Early Jul to W/C 20 Jul 20	Vimpat 10mg/ml syrup remains available.
Phenelzine Sulphate 15 mg tablets (Nardil ®)	End 2021	Full info, via PSNC, HERE .
Levodopa/carbidopa/entacapone	TBC	For patients with insufficient supplies of Stanek or Sastravi - Levodopa/carbidopa/entacapone should be considered.
Dexamethasone (oral solution/solution for injection (all strengths)):	N/A	2 additional formulations added to the list of meds which must NOT be parallel exported from the UK (additional restrictions came into place 16 June 2020). View the full parallel export ban list, HERE .

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 For any contractors, still required to implement reduced hours under the COVID-19 SOP (temporary closures): Please ensure that the relevant Directory of Services (DoS) team for your area (i.e. Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset) is updated/accurate along with NHS UK, and liaise with local GP practices/ services accordingly. Please note that for DEVON & CORNWALL pharmacies this will be via the RAG updater (See Annex C information, attached).

Checklist for Emergency Closures: PSNC have updated a briefing for community pharmacy contractors which explains those actions needed if the pharmacy may be faced with a risk of a short-term closure because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic or for another reason. It's recommended that contractors consider matters before a closure is needed – and the [checklist](#) also includes actions that can be taken now to mitigate a possible future closure. It's important that you do what you can, if appropriate, to make sure everything is in place to ensure patients are able to access their prescriptions, and that your business can resume as easily as possible.

Increased Risk of Vehicle Fire from Alcohol Hand Gel...
The attached 'Safety Quick Share' is to alert all colleagues to the potential fire risk in vehicles, caused by alcohol-based hand sanitizer. There have been several reports received re. hand sanitizer being the cause of fires when left in vehicles in the hot weather. Hand hygiene is one of the most effective methods to stop the spread of COVID-19 – please ensure your own and that of your team including delivery drivers and any volunteers when using alcohol gel as part of hand hygiene routines.

Free Car Parking for NHS Staff...
On Wednesday 25 March the Local Government Secretary announced that local councils will offer free on-street and off-street car parking in local authority car parks to all NHS staff members, health or social care workers, and NHS Volunteer Responders during the COVID-19 emergency response. A pass can be used as evidence that a motorist is on official duty, giving them access to free council car parking as outlined in [this guidance](#). Please note, this does not apply to privately owned car parks. Contractors will need to contact their relevant Local Authority (city/town council) to apply.

C-19 Payments for July 2020...
Several COVID-19 related payments for community pharmacy contractors have been announced in recent months. PSNC has produced a useful summary of how contractors can claim for these payments (if required) and how each payment will be made for the month of July. Payment adjustments include those for the Early May Bank Holiday, the Pandemic Delivery Service and the installation of protective barriers. >View the Payment Guide, [HERE](#).

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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...