

Pharmacy Bulletin



Friday 29th May 2020



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SAVE THE DATE!

Needing help and advice with
Infection, Prevention and Control
in light of Covid-19?...

Please join us on **Tuesday 2 June 2020: 1-2pm** via the following link, [HERE](#).

If you are planning to use a mobile device, please ensure you have installed the MS Teams app from the Apple/Google Play stores (account not required just the app).

Please see the flyer and presentation, attached. Once you have read through the presentation, please do send any questions you may have in advance to our mailbox (england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net), alternatively questions can be submitted live on the day (any questions not answered during the live event, or prior, will be circulated through a Q&A after the event).

The event will be recorded if you cannot make the planned time.

C-19 General:

- 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](#).

C-19 Specific Guidance:

- Life Assurance Scheme Extended to Cover Pharmacy Teams...More Info [HERE](#).
- Updated Guidance on Government Safety Net Indemnity...More info, [HERE](#).
- Guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol...More info (via the PSNC), [HERE](#).
- Guidance for Managing Returned Medicines...More info, [HERE](#)
- Smartcards ... More info [HERE](#). (Contractors are reminded that NHS Digital extended access to SCR to all users with 'pharmacist 5-F' multisite code on their smartcards).
- NICE Guidance for Cystic Fibrosis, More info [HERE](#).

CORONAVIRUS

STAY ALERT TO STAY SAFE

Go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES ▶

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. (This work is being led and coordinated in each area by the relevant 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.

Provisional Registration policy for Pre-Reg Trainees...

The GPhC has announced its intention to add current pre reg trainees to the pharmacist register on a provisional list. Those trainees who are provisionally registered will be able to work as a Responsible Pharmacist; but they will have various restrictions on their practice. The council has therefore published a policy setting out the criteria, [HERE](#).

Suspension of Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment's (PNA's)...

DHSC has announced that the requirement to publish PNA's will be suspended to help reduce unnecessary pressures on Local Authorities and LPC's.

Health & Wellbeing Boards will therefore now have until April 2022 to publish their assessments. [>More info via the PSNC, HERE.](#)



Safety & Learning...

Wellbeing & Accessing Support for Pharmacy Teams through the Pandemic...

The NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (NHS SPS) have helped to develop a 'where to start guide' for personal wellbeing and access to support during COVID-19 for pharmacy teams. It includes resources to encourage good habits and some immediate 'go-to' strategies. Please see the PDF, attached, for more info.

Bereavement Support...

You can find a selection of resources online, [HERE](#), that will support you during a bereavement, be that practical next steps to take as a line manager or confidential bereavement support staffed by a team of specialists, or call the confidential hotline (operated by Hospice UK) on 0300 303 4434 (8am-8pm M-Sun)



We wish to thank all pharmacy teams for providing cover over the Bank Holidays as per National Directions/directed.

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

Process for claims for the recent May 25th Bank Holiday will follow as soon as it is available.

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The PINCER Initiative: Reducing Medication Errors in Primary Care...

PINCER is a pharmacist led IT-based intervention developed by researchers at the University of Nottingham to reduce clinically important medication errors in primary care.

The three key elements of the PINCER initiative are:

- Searching GP clinical systems to identify patients at risk of potentially hazardous prescribing
- Having pharmacists, specifically trained to deliver the intervention, to provide an educational outreach intervention and meet with GPs and other practice staff, to:
 - discuss the search results and highlight the importance of the hazardous prescribing that's been identified, using brief educational materials
 - agree an action plan for reviewing patients identified as high risk, and improving prescribing and medication monitoring systems, using root cause analysis (RCA) to minimise future risk.
- Pharmacists (and pharmacy technicians) working with, and supporting, general practice staff to implement the agreed action plan.

[>Full article \(PDF\) attached.](#)

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TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT.

>**Support re. infection control relating to COVID-19... [HERE](#)**

>**Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) Release 4 and electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)...**

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.

NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

With the good news that more contractors are now returning to their standard contracted hours (i.e. pre COVID-19), we would like to remind contractors of the routine unplanned closures process, for the reporting of 'one off' unplanned closures, in the event the store is unable to provide contracted pharmaceutical services, as follows:

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 stores, still required to implement reduced hours under the COVID-19 SOP (temporary closures), please can you 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 and other relevant services accordingly. Please note that for DEVON & CORNWALL pharmacies this will be via the RAG updater (*See Annex C information, attached*).

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Changes to PEPS (Pharmacy Earlier Payment Scheme) ...

PEPS is being updated to provide pharmacy contractors with even earlier access to their monthly Advance payment. Under the new scheme, contractors can receive an estimated early payment, based on their submission history, before the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) receives their FP34C submission document. This means contractors can access funds up to 60 days earlier.

The previous PEPS terms will no longer apply from 1st July 2020.

Contractors currently signed up to PEPS who wish to continue with the new scheme must send a completed revised terms and conditions form to the NHSBSA by 31st May 2020.

Existing service users who do not send in their revised terms and conditions will revert to the normal payment timetable.

>More info via the PSNC, [HERE](#)

Info Published re. COVID-19 deaths of people with diabetes...

NHSE has published figures on the number of people with diabetes that have died as a result of COVID-19. The total number of deaths of those with diabetes currently makes up 26% (a quarter) of the total number of deaths so far. Further analysis and more information will be published in due course. The risk for people aged under 40 with diabetes is still low.

The NHS has put extra measures in place so that people living with diabetes can continue to receive care and is currently commissioning services to help people with diabetes of all ages self-manage their condition with online support. NHSE has extended the availability of a diabetes helpline for anyone with insulin-dependent diabetes to help with any concerns

- Contact the Diabetes UK's support line on 0345 123 2399.

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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...