

Community Pharmacy Bulletin



22 January 2021



NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

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Coming Up

	January	February	March
Week 1	New Year ----- Supplementary hours changes for Easter 90 day notice deadline	PQS Part 2 declaration opens 1 February 2021	
Week 2			

	January	February	March
Week 3	Covid Oximetry @ Home: An Overview for Primary Care Webinar 12 January 2021, 13:00-14:00 Book via Eventbrite	Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) becomes Essential Service from 15 February 2021	
Week 4		PQS Part 2 declaration closes 26 February 2021	
Week 5	PQS Part 1 claim period ends 29 January 2021, claims via NHS BSA Manage Your Service portal		

Headlines from the Week

NHS England

- [New standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists introduced](#)

NHS England South West Regional Team

- None

PSNC Bulletin

- [Discharge Medicines Service Toolkit published](#)
- [January 2021 Price Concessions - 1st Update](#)
- [FAQs on Lateral Flow Testing](#)
- [MHRA Company Led Drug Alert and Recall: Instanyl 100mcg nasal spray solution](#)
- [FAQs on COVID-19 vaccinations for pharmacy staff](#)
- [Guidance on PPE claims via the MYS portal](#)
- [Discharge Medicines Service DoC now available](#)
- ['We Are Undefeatable' campaign](#)

Seasonal Flu

Advanced Service Flu Programme 2020-2021

The service is effective from 1 September and runs to 31 March, but focus should be given to vaccinating eligible patients between 1 September and 31 January each year. Eligible patients should be vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available. Widespread immunisation may continue until December in order to achieve maximum impact, but where possible, should be completed before flu starts to circulate in the community.

However, flu can circulate considerably later than this and pharmacists should apply clinical judgement to assess the needs of individual patients who are eligible for vaccination under this service to receive immunisation beyond 31 January. This should take into account the level of flu-like illness in the community and that immune response following immunisation may take up to 14 days to achieve.

Community Pharmacy Urged to Continue Flu Vaccination Programme

(taken from Primary Care Bulletin 19 January 2021 (Issue 100) and Primary Care Bulletin 21 January 2021 (Issue 101))

Thank you for the work you continue to do in community pharmacies in vaccinating patients for flu. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that community pharmacies can now offer private patients and those covered by occupational health schemes a vaccine that has been centrally supplied, alongside NHS eligible cohorts. This is reflected in [updated DHSC stock guidance for pharmacies](#).

Please retain some vaccines specifically for NHS eligible cohorts, as some may come forward later in the season, such as newly pregnant women or others who have not received their vaccine yet.

With community pharmacy vaccinating more people than ever before against the flu, contractors are urged to continue their efforts by encouraging as many as possible to get the flu jab to protect vulnerable people against co-infection of flu and COVID-19 and to reduce vaccine wastage.

Tips to help encourage uptake include:

- proactively targeting people coming into the pharmacy to encourage them to get the flu jab if they haven't already had it;
- targeting people who collect prescriptions or call the pharmacy for advice, to ask if they have had the jab; and
- briefing team members about what the flu vaccine involves and why it is important, ensuring they are confident about booking appointments

Covid-19

UPDATED: UK Infection Prevention and Control Guidance

The UK [Infection Prevention and Control guidance](#), agreed by the UK's four chief medical and nursing officers, has been updated to reflect the most up-to-date scientific understanding of how to prevent and control COVID-19 infection. Amendments have been made to strengthen existing messaging and provide further clarity where needed, including updates to the care pathways to recognise testing and exposure. Appendices to support the re-mobilisation and maintenance of dental, mental health and learning disability services have also been added.

Changes to the previous version are listed on page 7 of the guidance. Following extensive clinical and scientific review, no changes to the recommendations, including PPE, have been made in response to the new variant strains at this stage, however this position will remain under constant review. Organisations who adopt practices that differ from those recommended in the national guidance are responsible for ensuring safe systems of work, including the completion of a risk assessments approved through local governance procedures.

All NHS organisations should ensure reliable application of all IPC recommendations and assurance on adherence, that PPE is available and in supply, and that all staff training is up to date.

Valved respirator masks

Previous guidance has confirmed valved non-shrouded FFP3 respirators should be worn with a full-face shield if blood or bodily fluid splashing is anticipated. This updated guidance clarifies that valved respirators should not be worn by a healthcare worker/operator in sterile areas such as theatres/surgical settings or while undertaking a sterile procedure, such as central line insertion, as the exhaled breath is unfiltered. In these settings, please follow the approach of fit testing staff to one or more of the seven non-valved masks

currently available. New fit testing should focus on non-3M models, in line with the ongoing national resilience strategy.

For support with fit testing, please contact Anton Miedziolka in the Government's National Fit Testing Team: Anton.Miedziolka@gstt.nhs.uk.

Staff Vaccinations

We are working with your system to agree plans for you and your team to access the vaccination. As soon as these have been agreed, we will share details with you. Please note that the details and timescales for each system will be different, so providers with contracts in a number of systems will receive different invitations for each area according to the location of the contract. Therefore, it is important that invitation details are not shared with teams outside the system/geography defined.

Please ensure you watch out for your area vaccination emails to ensure that your staff are vaccinated and follow the correct process.

Flow Testing – Questions and Answers

We have had a number of questions around Lateral Flow Testing and want to share with all contractors the national [FAQs](#), and specifically the following on frequency and reporting:

Frequency

Q10. How frequently should staff be tested? Staff should test themselves twice weekly every three to four days to fit with shift patterns and leave requirements; for example, Wednesday and Sunday, or Monday and Thursday.

Q11. When should staff test? Staff should be asked to perform the test before attending work, leaving enough time before the start of their shift to alert their employer who may need to arrange cover, should their lateral flow test be positive.

Q12. What happens if I have had a positive PCR result should I continue to undertake lateral flow tests? - If you have had a positive PCR result then you should refrain from further lateral flow tests for 90 days but should continue with testing LFD after a vaccination.

Reporting:

Q22 of the FAQs refers to this being a statutory duty to report. The [Covid 19 SOP](#) dated 11 December 2020 states, "Recording of all results (positive, negative, invalid) from lateral flow devices is a statutory requirement. Staff should be asked to record their results on the NHS Digital online platform. Primary care employers are encouraged have regular conversations with their staff who are undertaking these tests to ensure that the available test kits are used, and results reported in the correct way in order to ensure that all statutory requirements are met."

NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service IT Licence – Extension to 30 September 2021

(taken from Primary Care Bulletin 21 January 2021 (Issue 101))

Additional funding has been agreed so that all regions can arrange an additional six months for the community pharmacy CPCS IT licence for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021, on behalf of contractors.

Since March 2020, Pharmacy Integration Fund resource has been provided to regions to fund the community pharmacy CPCS IT licence to allow contractors to offer the service without additional IT costs being incurred.

This funding was due to end on the 31 March 2021, after which point contractors would be required to purchase their own IT from the range of system suppliers in the market offering CPCS functionality. This change is part of a package of interventions that NHSE&I has made to support contractors during the pandemic. Further information will follow locally from NHSE&I Regional teams.

Workforce Training and Development Bursaries

Health Education England are delighted to let you know that they have bursaries available to support pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across our region (Wessex, Thames Valley and South West) by funding specific courses to support workforce development.

They have the following bursaries available:

Bursary	For	Sector of practice	Funds available per pharmacist/pharmacy technician
Advanced Clinical Practice	Pharmacists	Acute sector, primary care and mental health	£2000
Postgraduate Diplomas	Pharmacists	All sectors	£2500 for Y1/Y2 £5000 for both Y1 and Y2
Independent Prescribing	Pharmacists	All sectors	£2500
Advanced Education & Training for Pharmacy Technicians	Pharmacy Technicians	All sectors	£2500

Details of the funding available can be found within the attached application forms, or in the attached leaflets for the advanced clinical practice (pharmacists) and advanced education and training for pharmacy technicians bursaries.

Please could individuals complete the application forms for the relevant bursaries and send to Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk with the name of the bursary in the subject line by **Friday 19 February 2021**. Please ensure all the information is completed and sent by the deadline.

Once accepted, we will ask employers to raise invoices asap for these funds. **Please note the bursaries (for PgD, Independent Prescribing, and Pharmacy Technician Education & Training) have to be paid to employers this financial year (i.e. by March 2021)**. Please note all bursary funds will be transferred to employers and not directly to HEIs/providers of the training courses.

Serious Shortage Protocol - Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg (SSP008)

Please be advised that because of ongoing supply issues, the Serious Shortage Protocol currently in effect for Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg (SSP008) is being varied to extend the end date, which was previously 22 January 2021.

The end date for SSP008 will now be 26 February 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the SSP please contact the NHS Prescription Service:

Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 330 1349

Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

To access the latest information about SSPs (including supporting guidance), please visit the following link – <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>

Useful Information

INFORMATION



NHS England & Improvement – South West Region Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team contact information

Team Member	Telephone	Address
Jenny Collins	07979 308749	For Devon, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Somerset and Dorset:
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Les Riggs	07730 371074	Kingsmill Road Tamar View Industrial Estate Saltash, PL12 6LE
Sarah Lillington	07920 834445	<i>Please note all our offices are currently closed, please do not send post and use email wherever possible</i>
Mary Cotton	07920 288191	Email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net
Kath Hughes	07730 374739	For Bristol, North Somerset, South Glos, Bath & North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, Swindon & Wiltshire
Stacey Burch	07730 391418	NHS England and Improvement – South West Sanger House, 5220 Valiant Court
Sharon Greaves	07900 715295	Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth Gloucester, GL3 4FE
Melissa Kendall-Milnes	07730 381340	Or
Sharon Hodges	07702 411295	NHS England and Improvement – South West Jenner House, Avon Way Langley Park Chippenham, SN15 1GG
Tracey Howes	07730 380479	<i>Please note all our offices are currently closed, please do not send post and use email wherever possible</i>
Chris Yengel	07769 963478	Email: england.bgs-w-pharmacy@nhs.net

Webpages

Please see our websites for more information and any blank templates, forms and documents:

[Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Bristol, Dorset, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire](#)

[BaNES, Gloucestershire, Swindon or Wiltshire](#)

[Interpretation and Translation Services](#)