**DERBYSHIRE LPC - COMMUNITY PHARMACY UPDATE 25.09.20**  

Today is **WORLD PHARMACIST DAY** so a great opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to you and your teams for the continuous support and commitment you all provide to your patients, public and communities. It was great to see three case studies from Derbyshire Community Pharmacists showcased by the East Midlands Academic Health Science Network – these are from Good Life Pharmacy, B.J.Wilsons Pharmacies and Peak Pharmacies and can be seen at <https://emahsn.org.uk/covid-19/personal-experiences-voices-of-covid-19>

This update is intended to highlight and add helpful and local information to the key areas that affect community pharmacies this week. This summary is accurate at 5pm on Thursday 24.09.20. Please note things continue to change rapidly.

1. **FLU**

**Locally commissioned flu service for Derby City Council staff**

Employees at Derby City Council can get a voucher code from the Council. Many pharmacies in Derby City Council geography have registered to provide this service. It is live on PharmOutcomes – please enter the voucher code onto PharmOutcomes and complete the service

**Locally commissioned flu service for Derbyshire County Council staff**

This service will start early October – I will update you again next week.

1. **IG TOOLKIT**

A reminder that the Data Security and Protection Toolkit must be completed by next Wednesday. The info below is from PSNC:

### Upcoming deadline: Data Security and Protection Toolkit

Whilst approximately three-quarters of pharmacies have already completed the Data Security and Protection Toolkit, those contractors who have not yet done so are reminded that this must be completed by **30th September 2020**.

The deadline for completing the Toolkit, which is used to make a pharmacy's information governance (IG) declaration, was extended from the usual 31st March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PSNC worked closely with NHS Digital to keep the data security protections appropriate but the workload manageable particularly given the ongoing pandemic and relating work. In particular, the Toolkit will show the answers submitted by the pharmacy last year for many questions, allowing the contractor to simply check the information is still accurate and adjust if needed.

[**Comprehensive guidance from PSNC**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=41cdbb1cc9&e=1bce2f3970) has been available to contractors since December.

[**Find out more about completing the Toolkit**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=cf4b113212&e=1bce2f3970)

1. **STEROID CARDS**

Community pharmacy team were asked via an alert (<https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/patient-safety-alert-steroid-emergency-card/>) to keep a stock of steroid cards to give to new and existing patients prescribed steroids when appropriate.

The alert puts the onus on the prescriber to provide the card in the first place and for community pharmacists to replace lost/misplaced cards:

***‘Prescribers are asked to ensure all eligible patients are issued with a Steroid Emergency Card. Community pharmacies are asked to hold copies of the Steroid Emergency Card in stock to provide to patients if they lose or misplace their original cards.’***

As GPs are carrying out many appointments remotely, it is sometimes difficult for them to give cards out and the CCG have requested that community pharmacists proactively check whether patients have one and provide one where not. Cards can be obtained from PCSE.

1. **PPE PORTAL**

Please sign up to the PPE portal if you haven’t already. You should have received an email (early August) to your shared NHS mail to register to access the portal.

Initially community pharmacies could only use the portal to order additional PPE in an emergency but that is changing so really important that all pharmacies register!

1. **COVID TESTS – TWO WAYS TO GET PRIORITY TESTS FOR PHARMACISTS AND TEAM MEMBERS AS ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

With COVID numbers rising, more community pharmacists and their pharmacy team members are being affected and it is currently proving difficult to access tests. It is important that community pharmacists and their teams are able to access tests quickly when required, in order to help keep community pharmacies open and providing essential services to patients and the public.

Community pharmacists and their teams can access priority tests through the national portal – the information below is from the PSNC website:

**National secure employer referral portal**

**Pharmacy contractors will be aware from recent media reports of the challenges the NHS Test and Trace service is currently facing, with increased demand being seen for COVID-19 tests for symptomatic individuals. PSNC has also received reports from contractors that pharmacy staff members with COVID-19 symptoms have been unable to access testing.**

**Community pharmacists and their staff are classed as**[**essential workers who are prioritised for testing**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#list-of-essential-workers-and-those-prioritised-for-testing-england-only) **and employers can refer essential workers for testing if they are self-isolating because either they or members of their household have coronavirus symptoms.**

**They can do this by uploading the names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers to the secure employer referral portal. Referred essential workers will then receive a text message with a unique invitation code to** [**book a test for themselves**](https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register/validate-code) **(if symptomatic) or their symptomatic household members at a testing site.**

**To get a login to the employer referral portal, pharmacy contractors should email** **portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk** **with the following information:**

* **organisation name**
* **nature of the organisation’s business**
* **region**
* **names (where possible) and email addresses of the 2 users who will load essential worker contact details**

**Once employer details have been verified, two login credentials will be provided for the employer referral portal.**

Unfortunately, we have reports where despite following this process, tests have not been available.  We have worked with Derbyshire CCG who have organised a fixed number of appointments per day for essential GPs, GP staff, community pharmacists and community pharmacy teams.  Please note:

**Derby and Derbyshire CCG additional support for community pharmacists and their teams**

* these test appointments are for essential workers only – not for other family members
* they are to keep community pharmacies open and must be used for appropriate business critical staff only
* you must be prepared to travel to either Toyota, Derby or Proact Stadium, Chesterfield
* you must have a mobile phone and an email address (results will be sent via barcode registration)
* ID must be taken to the test appointment
* to request a test, the responsible pharmacist should email ddccg.covid19keyhcwtesting@nhs.net from their pharmacy NHS mail account, the name and date of birth of the person needing a test
* if emails are received before 10am, every effort will be made to offer a test the same day (please note tests are currently only available until 13:00 each day)
* if emails are received after 10am, every effort will be made to offer a test the following day

We appreciate the CCG providing this support and ask that all contractors please follow the instructions above. The use of the service will be monitored by the CCG.  Please let me know of any problems experienced (email to jackie.buxton@derbyshirelpc.org) and I will pick up with the CCG,

Thanks

Jackie

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