

Community Pharmacy Bulletin



23 April 2021



NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

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Coming Up

	April	May	June
Week 1	Good Friday 2 April 2021 Easter Sunday 4 April 2021	Early May Bank Holiday Monday 3 May 2021	
Week 2	Easter Monday 5 April 2021	Smartcard access to MYS end on 16 May 2021. Access will be using NHSmail credentials, register here	
Week 3			
Week 4			
Week 5	Pre-Registration Pharmacists Exam Results 29 April 2021	Spring Bank Holiday Monday 31 May 2021	Data Security Toolkit deadline 30 June 2021

Headlines from the Week

NHS England

- [Sign-up for the NHSE&I Primary Care bulletin](#)
- [New e-Learning from the British Oncology Pharmacy Association](#)

NHS England South West Regional Team

- None

PSNC Bulletin

- [April 2021 Price Concessions](#)
- [Hepatitis C Testing supporting local case finding](#)
- [Amantadine price re-determination](#)
- [Alert: inhaled Budesonide for adults with C-19](#)
- [Ramadan C-19 resources for pharmacy teams](#)
- [New advice on C-19 vaccination for pregnant women](#)
- [Expanded NHSE&I mental health support for pharmacy teams](#)
- [Payment timetable update](#)
- [AMS virtual event now on-demand](#)
- [C-19 test distribution service: providing information when supplying test kits](#)
- [Contractors encouraged to complete HEE workforce survey](#)
- [Smartcard access to MYS portal extended](#)

Directory of Services (DOS) and NHS.uk Profiles

Community pharmacies are reminded to ensure that they update their opening hours for the May Bank Holidays on 3 May 2021 and 31 May 2021 on Directory of Service (DOS) and NHS.uk profiles.



Pharmacy Year End Process Changes

Community pharmacies are reminded that regulations, approved particulars and normal year end processes have changed this year:



- NHSE&I Audit Requirements have been waived for this year
- Clinical Audit has been waived for this year
- Community Pharmacy Patient Questionnaire has been waived for this year
- Data Security Toolkit Deadline extended to 30 June 2021
- Complaints Returns not required

NEW Email Address – Please Update Your Records

This is a reminder that we have now moved to one South West Team NHS Email Address. Please note that all email communications should now be via the following email address: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net



Please ensure you use the above email address for all email communications going forwards, if your premises fall under one of the following South West regional areas:

- Bath & North East Somerset
- Bristol
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- Devon
- Dorset
- Gloucestershire
- North Somerset
- South Gloucestershire
- Somerset
- Swindon
- Wiltshire

Please be aware the old email address england.bgswh-pharmacy@nhs.net will be removed over the next month. Please ensure that you have updated your records with our new contact details.

Covid-19

Lateral Flow Test Kits – Update

Following the rollout of lateral flow testing devices for COVID-19 at the end of last year, PCSE are now inviting contractors to order the second round of testing devices for your patient-facing staff. Contractors were asked to place orders between 8 March and 21 March, however new orders can still be placed.



Important note: Test kits need to be ordered separately to your normal supplies order. Any orders placed with other supplies items cannot be processed and will need to be cancelled.

Available support

For queries on ordering or getting access to order, contact [PCSE](#). Choose Supplies as the category and type of enquiry and put Test Kit as the subject.

[FAQs and information leaflet](#). You can view the SOP for usage of lateral flow devices for asymptomatic staff testing at vaccination sites [here](#).

COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device Distribution Service

(taken from Primary Care Bulletin 20 April (issue 122))

There has been a very high level of engagement with community pharmacies for the new service and over 90% have already signed up. For pharmacies taking part in the COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service, this a reminder that you must enter the required data into the MYS portal by the close of business on the pharmacy's last trading day of the week. Please ensure you report data week-by-week on your last trading day and do not amalgamate data.

Pre-Registration Pharmacists – Important Information (29 April 2021 Exam Results)

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the postponement of the registration assessment. So, for the first time, the GPhC created the status of “provisional registration”. Any pre-registration pharmacist that had satisfactorily completed 52 weeks of preregistration training in the last year could go onto a provisional register, legally allowing them to practice as pharmacists; albeit provisionally, and for a time-limited period.

Candidates who sat their March Registration Assessment, will receive their results by 9am on the 29 April 2021, and therefore those that do not pass will be immediately removed from the provisional register and cannot continue to work as a provisionally registered pharmacist.

Although you cannot employ those that have failed the registration assessment as a pharmacist, you may wish to consider continuing to employ individuals in other appropriate roles. For example, this could be as a vaccinator (if you are taking part in the COVID 19 vaccination programme), or other roles where the individual has the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the role safely, with the appropriate supervision.

How does this affect my pharmacy?

If you have any provisionally registered pharmacists who do not pass their registration assessment on the 29 April 2021, you must consider your business requirements on this day or ensuring you have another qualified pharmacist on the premises.

GPhC Results Day 29 April - Drop-in Session

The HEE South Pharmacy team are hosting an all-day open online session, 9am-5pm on 29 April 2021, for any pharmacy trainee who has received their results and would like to talk to someone.

The session will be staffed by members of the HEE Pharmacy team, who are all qualified pharmacists, specialising in education and development of pharmacists prior to and post-qualification.

For candidates who may not have had the news they wanted or expected, this will offer a chance to talk, be listened to, and to discuss what happens next. Private meeting rooms will be available.

This offer is open to provisional registrants and candidates who sat the assessment in March, from *all* sectors of pharmacy, working within the South and South-West region. The link to join the meeting is [here](#).

What Support Can I give?

Supporting those staff will be difficult, therefore, to remember there are a number of supporting organisations available for them which you may wish to signpost individuals to:

- The NHS has a [mental health hotline](#) available for staff
- There is guidance at the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education online guides: https://www.cppe.ac.uk/#pw_6
- There is also support by Pharmacist Support – who is an independent charity, providing a range of free and confidential services to pharmacists and their families, pre-registration trainees and pharmacy students, information can be found at <https://pharmacistsupport.org/>
- Finally, any provisional registrant that is enrolled on the Health Education England Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme they will be able to access wellbeing support as part of this programme.

Vaccine Supply Notification (VSN)

Please find attached Vaccine Supply Notification for:

- 23- valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23) pre-filled syringes

Vaccine	Supply	Detail
23- valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23)	Supplies are very limited and are expected to be out of stock from end of April until mid-May 2021	Please refer to the Vaccine Supply notification and PHE's clinical prioritisation guidelines included

If you have any stock queries please contact: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.

There have also been changes to the resupply dates of the medicines listed below.

Original MSN reference	Date of original MSN/SDA	Supply issue	Resupply date originally communicated	Updated resupply date as of w/c 5 April 2021
MSN/2020/015	27/03/2020	Diazemuls	after Sept 2020	TBC- long term OOS
MSN/2020/057	21/10/2020	Fluoxetine 30mg capsules	Mid-December 2020	End of May 2021
MSN/2020/043-U3	18/3/2021	Oral Contraceptive Tablets (update 3)	Norinyl-1 w/c 22 March 2021	Norinyl-1 – w/c 14 June 2021
MSN/2021/014	18/3/2021	Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets	Early May 2021	End of May 2021
MSN/2021/021	9/4/2021	Diamorphine 5mg and 10mg injections	w/c 19 March 2021	w/c 3 May 2021

Please note that supply issues that have been categorised as tier 1 or 2, DHSC and the MSRG have requested that the NHSE&I commissioning routes are used to reach community pharmacy and GP Practices. More serious supply issues are communicated via the Central Alerting System for action.

Useful Information

INFORMATION



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

Team Member	Telephone	Address
Jenny Collins	07979 308749	South West Region Postal Addresses NHS England and Improvement – South West Peninsula House Kingsmill Road Tamar View Industrial Estate Saltash, PL12 6LE
Sharon Greaves	07900 715295	
Les Riggs	07730 371074	
Mary Cotton	07920 288191	
Michele Toy	07568 431890	

Sarah Lillington	07920 834445	Or NHS England and Improvement – South West Sanger House, 5220 Valiant Court Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth Gloucester, GL3 4FE
Sharon Hodges	07702 411295	
Tracey Howes	07730 380479	
Chris Yengel	07769 963478	Or NHS England and Improvement – South West Jenner House, Avon Way Langley Park Chippenham, SN15 1GG <i>Please note all our offices are currently closed, please do not send post and use email wherever possible</i> Email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net
Kath Hughes	07730 374739	
Hayley Colledge	07900 713005	
Lesley St Leger	07730 381871	
William Anderson	07783 821721	
Stacey Burch	07730 391418	

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](#)



UPDATE:

Update to communications issued 14th of April 2021

Vaccine Supply Notification

VSN/2021/001U

23- valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23[®]) pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited)

Material updates are shown in *italics*

Date of issue: 22/04/2021

Summary

- Supplies of Pneumovax[®] 23 pre-filled syringes (PFS) are very limited and are expected to be out of stock from the ***end of April*** until mid-May 2021, due to increased demand.
- Public Health England's (PHE) clinical prioritisation guideline has been included below, to support practitioners during this time. This includes immediate actions to take now and in the event of no vaccine being available
- Maximum ordering quotas are still in place in agreement with the Department of Health and Social Care, PHE, NHS England and Improvement, Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited (MSD), and the wholesaler All About Health Pharmaceuticals (AAH), to ensure equitable and appropriate distribution during this period.
- Please note, there is an override procedure in place for these quotas to fulfil orders for individuals in high risk clinical groups as outlined by PHE's guidance.
- A similar approach has been agreed across the UK.
- ***During the out of stock period the emphasis is for NHS providers and systems to share the stock currently held, so that it is only used for priority cases.***

Actions Required

To ensure that the limited supplies of Pneumovax[®] 23 PFS are preserved for those individuals with the highest clinical need, all relevant healthcare professionals in primary, secondary or specialist healthcare services should work to ensure the following actions are undertaken where applicable:

- ensure all remaining stock on shelves is prioritised for the vaccination of high-risk patients as per PHE's clinical prioritisation guideline: and
- ensure stock is **only** ordered in line with requirements for patients as per clinical prioritisation guideline (please refer to page 3 and 4).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

- Please refer to page 3 and 4 for PHE's clinical prioritisation guidelines.



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Public Health
England



Obtaining supplies

- Supplies of Pneumovax 23[®] pre-filled syringes can only be ordered from the wholesaler AAH.
- Healthcare professionals who wish to place orders, should contact AAH via their usual channels.
- If further assistance is required, please contact AAH customer services help desk on 0344 561 2266

Enquiries

- If you have any clinical queries, please contact your local Screening and Immunisation Team or Health Protection team.
- If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk



Supply of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax® 23)

Due to increased demand, supplies of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23) marketed by MSD as Pneumovax® 23 in pre-filled syringes are very limited and are expected to be out of stock from the **end of April** until mid-May 2021. Clinicians should continue to prioritise vaccination according to the recommendations below.

PPV23 is recommended for:

- individuals aged from 2 years or over in clinical risk groups
- all individuals aged 65 years and over

A single lifetime dose is recommended for most individuals. Five yearly boosters are recommended for asplenic patients and those with chronic kidney disease. PPV23 should not be routinely administered in hospitals to patients with COVID-19 infection for the prevention of secondary bacterial pneumonia. This is because the immune response is unlikely to be sufficiently rapid and limited evidence of secondary infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in COVID-19 patients.

Advice on how to manage the PPV23 programme

1. If you are able to procure stock, the priority should be to offer vaccine to those newly diagnosed with conditions in the high priority group followed by those in moderate priority groups who have never received PPV23 (see the table below). When such individuals are first identified, if no vaccine is available, please ensure that their records are flagged in order to call them for a future appointment. Also ensure that other aspects of management are optimised and in place (for example antibiotic prophylaxis, or booster doses of PCV13) – as advised in relevant guidance, or by the specialist clinician caring for patient.
2. Any PPV23 dose that the surgery is able to access should be offered opportunistically to high and moderate priority groups attending an appointment at the surgery who have never received PPV23 and are due this vaccine.
3. PPV23 vaccination for lower priority groups (including healthy individuals aged 65 years and over) and booster doses for asplenic, those with splenic dysfunction and chronic kidney disease are less urgent and can be planned when sufficient stock is available.

Providers should work together to ensure remaining stocks of PPV23 are where possible, made available to those who will benefit the most. This may require transfer of stock between providers in keeping with advice here: <http://createsend.com/t/d-E5434ABA283BEA792540EF23F30FEDED>

National stocks of PCV13 (Prevenar13), or separately procured PCV10 (Synflorix), should not be used in place of PPV23 because herd protection from the childhood PCV13 programme has reduced pneumococcal disease due to these serotypes across all ages, including the elderly. PPV23 helps provide additional protection against serotypes that are not covered by PCV13 or PCV10.

Table: Priority groups for Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23-valent vaccine (PPV23, Pneumovax 23)

Clinical risk group	Examples (decision based on clinical judgement)
High risk	
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	This also includes conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome that may lead to splenic dysfunction.
Immunosuppression	Due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, bone marrow transplant, asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. IRAK-4, NEMO, complement deficiency) Individuals on or likely to be on systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day (any age), or for children under 20kg, a dose of 1mg or more per kg per day.
Individuals with cerebrospinal fluid leaks	This includes leakage of cerebrospinal fluid such as following trauma or major skull surgery (does not include CSF shunts)
Individuals with cochlear implants	It is important that immunisation does not delay the cochlear implantation.
Moderate priority	
Chronic respiratory disease	This includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; and such conditions as bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Children with respiratory conditions caused by aspiration, or a neurological disease (e.g. cerebral palsy) with a risk of aspiration. Asthma is not an indication, unless so severe as to require continuous or frequently repeated use of systemic steroids (as defined in Immunosuppression below).
Chronic heart disease	This includes those requiring regular medication and/ or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease, congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, and chronic heart failure.
Chronic kidney disease	Nephrotic syndrome, chronic kidney disease at stages 4 and 5 and those on kidney dialysis or with kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease	This includes cirrhosis, biliary atresia and chronic hepatitis.
Diabetes	Diabetes mellitus requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs. This does not include diabetes that is diet controlled.
Low priority	
	Healthy individuals aged 65 years and over. Booster doses for asplenic, those with splenic dysfunction and chronic kidney disease.