

Welcome to the August 2020 CPWY Committee Blog!

The easing of lockdown rules has probably given us all including our families and friends a sigh of relief, hope and prospect of normality. I am not sure if I can say the same for the community pharmacy sector or for all our NHS family colleagues.

The challenges we faced as a sector during the peak of the pandemic will probably continue for the months ahead and our teams must continue to stay strong and resilient and show the public and our stakeholders the professionalism and contribution community pharmacy has made during the pandemic and the services and care we could provide in the future to support the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan. Our contribution and commitment have not gone unnoticed at a local or national level and we have heard on a number of occasions the special recognition for Community Pharmacy Teams from the Prime Minister and Ministers.

The negotiations on pharmacy costs and funding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic between PSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are ongoing but I would like to thank each and every one of you who participated in the Pharmacy Advice Audit and submitted their results. These discussions can only be successful if we as a sector are able to demonstrate and provide the supporting data and evidence.

Our pharmacy shared NHSmail inboxes are used as the main point of contact for community pharmacy from local NHSE&I teams and Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire.

Please continue to participate and submit information in any local or national data collection requests, which brings me nicely on to the topic of NHSmail! Our pharmacy shared NHSmail inboxes are used as the main point of contact for contractor communications from local NHSE&I teams and now Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire will also only send contractor specific information through your pharmacy shared NHSmail account. When was the last time we all checked our pharmacy shared mailbox? Working in a busy community pharmacy, I fully appreciate how hard it can be to access the accounts when we are all wanting to use the computer, however let's start getting in to a routine until it becomes our default or normal practice. Start with once a day at a time which is convenient for you and then keep this momentum going each day and don't forget to show your colleagues how to access it too. Those pharmacies who provide the CPCS service are reminded that they are contractually obliged to check the pharmacy NHSmail when a pharmacy opens and before the pharmacy closes each day. This is because NHSmail is used as the backup referral route, should the CPCS IT system have an outage.

Community pharmacy has a bigger role than ever to play in providing NHS Flu vaccinations and we need to plan now for the flu service.

As the wider NHS and other business sectors enter a period of reset and restoration, we must use this time to plan for our biggest and most challenging flu season ever. The national service specification and details are still being discussed and agreed; however, I do believe we need to start thinking about how we will deliver the service with the challenges we face through COVID-19 and managing and controlling risk of infection.

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Each year community pharmacy has risen to the challenge and delivered more flu vaccinations and this year will be no exception to our excellent track record. PSNC has further information available [here](#) which includes [Early guidance on the 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service](#) to help you plan now for the flu vaccination service.

Finally, the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) has been announced! I know that daunting feeling of having to go through pages and pages of guidance and actions! Surprisingly, Part 1 of the 2020 – 2021 Scheme is straightforward and the majority of the actions we will have already implemented, however we will need to ensure we have all the supporting evidence to show, should this be requested by the NHS BSA Provider Assurance Team.

More importantly, please note that completion and claiming for the Part 1 Scheme will be a gateway requirement for the Part 2 Scheme which will be announced in the coming months. Plan now and leave yourself enough time to implement any actions from Part 1.

Remember we are all in this together so please book on to one of our CPWY Connect Events which are now more convenient than ever. These are virtual Zoom events and offer an opportunity to discuss your issues with the Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire team and learn from fellow contractors from the convenience of your own pharmacy or living room! Further info is on the Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire website [here](#).

On behalf of everybody at Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire, I would like to thank you and all your teams for the commitment and dedication you have all shown and continue to show each day to get us through this pandemic and getting back to normal. Now that the lockdown has been eased, enjoy the rest of the summer period and I hope you manage to get a well-deserved break and rest.

Abbas Bashir

[Committee Member](#) of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

CPWY Tribute and Thanks to West Yorkshire Community Pharmacy Teams

Community pharmacies in West Yorkshire have been working tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure patients and the public can continue to access their medicines. Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire has created this tribute and thank you for all community pharmacy teams. You are all amazing! Thank you. The tribute can be found [here](#) and on twitter [here](#).

Sign up to the PSNC mailing list to ensure you receive the weekly newsletters, alerts and updates [here](#).

Sign up to our mailing list [here](#). Join [CPWY Connect](#) on the social media site Telegram and connect with pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire. Join by [clicking here](#).

Details of the CPWY Connect Zoom Events are on our website in the [training section here](#).

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire's Role

We recognise and understand how much you and your teams are having to cope with right now. Please remember, you are not alone at this time. We're here to support you, providing advice and information on COVID-19, as well as pushing to make sure your work is properly recognised and fully supported throughout this pandemic. You are our eyes and ears - please let us know of any problems and we will do our best to help.

For COVID-19 related issues email: covid-19@cpwy.org

For non-COVID-19 issues email: info@cpwy.org