

More action needed on pharmacy risk assessments



Our second survey with the UK Black Pharmacists Association (UKBPA) has found that pharmacy teams are still not receiving adequate individual COVID-19 risk assessments. The data reveals a varied picture in terms of pharmacists' experience and views.

Our first survey (<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rpharms.com%2Fabout-us%2Fnews%2Fdetails%2Furgent-action-needed-on-BAME-risk-assessments&data=02%7C01%7CMelissa.Dear%40rpharms.com%7C5d20bc3a4abd4c49779f08d83d429697%7C9>) in June found that more than two-thirds of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) respondents had not been approached by their employer to conduct an assessment.

The new survey shows that nearly a quarter of all pharmacists are still waiting for this to happen.

Just under two-thirds of those surveyed believed they were at risk of COVID-19 in their workplace, rising to 71% of Black pharmacists and 67% of Asian respondents.

Yet 68% of Black and 58% of Asian pharmacists believe that changes could be made to their workplace to reduce their risk of COVID-19, compared to 44% of respondents of White ethnicity.

Concerns were also raised about the consequences of risk assessments. Whilst only 6% of respondents of White ethnicity were concerned about the impact of their risk assessment, 22% of Black and 18% of Asian pharmacists were concerned.

Worries focused the assessment recommending few changes, despite some individuals being moderate-high risk, or living with moderate-high risk individuals, and fears about restrictions to working practice or workplace discrimination.

Sandra Gidley, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, said:

"With well over two months since an NHS letter (<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Fcoronavirus%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F52%2F2020%2F04%2Fsecond-phase-of-nhs-response-to-covid-19-letter-to-chief-execs-29-april->)