**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 8th May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Medicine Supply Notifications**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for the following products:

* [**Conjugated oestrogens with medroxyprogesterone (Premique Low Dose®) 300microgram/1.5mg modified-release tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-conjugated-oestrogens-with-medroxyprogesterone-premique-low-dose-300microgram-1-5mg-modified-release-tablets/)
* [**Estriol (Ovestin®) 1mg cream**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estriol-ovestin-1mg-cream/)
* [**Estradiol (Oestrogel®) pump pack 0.06% gel**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estradiol-oestrogel-pump-pack-0-06-gel/)
* [**Quinapril (Accupro®) 5mg, 10mg, 20mg and 40mg tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-quinapril-accupro-5mg-10mg-20mg-and-40mg-tablets/)

**HRT SSPs: FAQ briefing and top tips**

Following the publication of [**three Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for HRT medicines**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/three-new-ssps-introduced-for-hrt-medicines/) on Friday 29th April, PSNC has created an FAQs briefing to help pharmacists understand the requirements of these new SSPs. To further support pharmacy teams, PSNC has also compiled a list of reminders and top tips on the SSP endorsement and submission requirements. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supplies-made-in-accordance-with-hrt-ssps-faq-briefing-and-top-tips/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supplies-made-in-accordance-with-hrt-ssps-faq-briefing-and-top-tips/)

**Pharmacy rebalancing orders: governance changes taken forward**

DHSC has published plans to amend current pharmacy legislation on dispensing errors and clarify how registered pharmacies are governed. The rebalancing medicines legislation and pharmacy regulation programme aims to clarify and strengthen the organisational governance arrangements of registered pharmacies, specifically to define and clarify the core purpose of the Responsible Pharmacist and Superintendent Pharmacist roles. It will also give the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) powers to define in professional standards how those roles are fulfilled. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-rebalancing-orders-governance-changes-taken-forward/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-rebalancing-orders-governance-changes-taken-forward/)

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall Notice**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for: Accupro 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg film-coated tablets (Pfizer Limited). Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-accupro-5mg-10mg-20mg-40mg-film-coated-tablets-pfizer-limited/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-accupro-5mg-10mg-20mg-40mg-film-coated-tablets-pfizer-limited/)

**The Prince of Wales congratulates community pharmacy teams for their efforts during the pandemic**

On Wednesday evening, His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales paid tribute to the incredible efforts of community pharmacy teams throughout the COVID-19 pandemic during a special reception at St James’s Palace. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/his-royal-highness-the-prince-of-wales-congratulates-community-pharmacy-teams-for-their-efforts-during-the-covid-pandemic/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/his-royal-highness-the-prince-of-wales-congratulates-community-pharmacy-teams-for-their-efforts-during-the-covid-pandemic/)

**HRT medicines supply: Government holds roundtable**

Community pharmacy representatives have attended a Government meeting about disruptions to the supply of Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines. This follows growing public concern about the difficulty of obtaining HRT drugs. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hrt-medicines-supply-government-holds-round-table/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hrt-medicines-supply-government-holds-round-table/)

**Data Security & Protection Toolkit: new PSNC guidance available**

PSNC has published new guidance to help community pharmacy contractors to complete the 2021/22 Data Security and Protection Toolkit. The Toolkit is used to make a pharmacy’s information governance (IG) declaration and must be completed by **30th June 2022**. However, contractors are recommended to complete the Toolkit as soon as possible. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/data-security-protection-toolkit-new-psnc-guidance-available/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/data-security-protection-toolkit-new-psnc-guidance-available/)

**Upcoming DSPTK webinar**

To support contractors with completing the 2021/22 Data Security and Protection Toolkit, PSNC will be holding a webinar on **Tuesday 24th May at 7.00pm**. During the webinar, which will last for approximately 45 minutes, representatives from PSNC and NHS Digital will discuss the Toolkit questions, talk delegates through the available guidance and answer questions. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/register-for-our-data-security-and-protection-toolkit-2022-workshop/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/register-for-our-data-security-and-protection-toolkit-2022-workshop/)

**COVID-19 Appendix**

**Remember: Key actions to take during the pandemic**

Contractors and pharmacy teams can take the following actions to ensure they are well prepared:

* Read the [**NHSE&I guidance**](https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/contractor-guidance-and-support/) **and implement its recommended actions;**
* Clearly display the [**COVID-19 poster**](https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/information-for-the-public/) **at points of entry to your pharmacy;**
* Read your [**business continuity plan**](https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/essential-service-clinical-governance/emergency-planning/) **and consider whether it needs to be updated to reflect the current and emerging situation;**
* Keep up to date with developments by regularly checking the information on [**COVID-19 on GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus)**, the** [**NHSE&I Coronavirus Primary Care**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/) **webpage and checking your NHSmail shared mailbox on a regular basis for updates from NHSE&I; and**
* Where possible, display the [**public health advice posters**](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5016) **on hand washing, face coverings etc.**

**Guidance for healthcare professionals**

The key guidance for health professionals is available on the Public Health England (PHE) section of the GOV.UK website:

[**COVID-19: guidance for health professionals (GOV.UK)**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus)

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published guidance for primary care teams on 27th February 2020. This includes a specific document for community pharmacy teams, which takes the guidance already available on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus), but contextualises it for the community pharmacy environment.

[**NHSE&I Coronavirus Primary Care webpage**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/)

The guidance explains how to deal with patients presenting in the pharmacy with suspected COVID-19 infection and preparations pharmacy contractors can take to deal with such a scenario. All pharmacy contractors should read the guidance and then undertake appropriate preparations for dealing with potentially infected patients.