**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 15th May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**NHS Prescription Services ‘Hints and Tips’ Issue 47**

NHS Prescription Services has now published a new edition (47) of its quarterly "Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors” newsletter. This edition contains useful information on the new NHS Profile Manager, submitting FP34Cs, and more. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-47/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-47/)

**Take part in research on the Virtual Visits tool**

NHS Digital and PSNC are inviting community pharmacy contractors to take part in research trialing the new NHSmail Virtual Visits appointment booking and remote consultation platform. This tool works in conjunction with NHSmail Microsoft Teams and the Microsoft Booking platform. Pharmacy teams participating in the pilot will be given the chance to use the Virtual Visits tool to experiment with booking and carrying out face-to-face and/or virtual patient consultations. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-take-part-in-research-on-the-virtual-visits-tool/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-take-part-in-research-on-the-virtual-visits-tool/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Glycerol 1g and 4g suppositories**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for **Glycerol 1g and 4g suppositories**. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-glycerol-1g-and-4g-suppositories/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-glycerol-1g-and-4g-suppositories/)

**Over 10,700 contractors benefit from earlier advance payments on 12th May**

Over 10,700 pharmacy contractors who declared their April 2022 FP34C submission figures through the NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA's) Manage Your Service (MYS) portal by May 6th 2022 received earlier advance payments on **Thursday 12th May**: circa 20 days earlier than the normal advance payment timetable. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-10700-contractors-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payments-on-12-may/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-10700-contractors-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payments-on-12-may/)

**Rise in prescription returns due to incomplete endorsements**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has reported seeing a rise in items that are being referred back to contractors due to incomplete endorsements. The NHSBSA notes that this issue is most commonly seen with handwritten prescriptions. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsbsa-reports-of-a-rise-in-prescriptions-returns-due-to-incomplete-endorsements/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsbsa-reports-of-a-rise-in-prescriptions-returns-due-to-incomplete-endorsements/)

**Further extension to SSP005 for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets**

The Serious Shortage Protocol for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets (SSP005) has been further extended to Friday 12th August 2022. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp05-for-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp05-for-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets/)

**Regulations Officer job opportunity at PSNC**

PSNC is seeking to recruit a Regulations Officer to support its legislative and regulatory affairs work. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regulations-officer-job-opportunity-at-psnc/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regulations-officer-job-opportunity-at-psnc/)

**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.