**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 22nd May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**May 2022 Price Concessions – First Update**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has granted the initial list of price concessions for May 2022. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-2022-price-concessions-1st-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-2022-price-concessions-1st-update/)

**NHS prescription charges to remain at £9.35 per item for 2022/23**

NHS prescription charges in England will remain frozen for the rest of 2022/23. This follows a previous comment that the NHS prescription charge would not be uplifted on 1st April 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-charges-to-remain-at-9-35-per-item-for-2022-23/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-charges-to-remain-at-9-35-per-item-for-2022-23/)

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall Notice**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for Mefenamic Acid 500mg film coated tablets (Quadrant Pharmaceuticals Ltd). Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-mefenamic-acid-500mg-film-coated-tablets-quadrant-pharmaceuticals-ltd/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-mefenamic-acid-500mg-film-coated-tablets-quadrant-pharmaceuticals-ltd/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Insulin isophane human**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for Insulin isophane human (Insuman Basal SoloStar®) 100 IU/ml suspension for injection in a pre-filled pen. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-insulin-isophane-human-insuman-basal-solostar-100-iu-ml-suspension-for-injection-in-a-pre-filled-pen/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-insulin-isophane-human-insuman-basal-solostar-100-iu-ml-suspension-for-injection-in-a-pre-filled-pen/)

**MHRA Drug Safety Update: May 2022**

A new MHRA Drug Safety Update (Vol 15 Issue 10 May 2022) has been published. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-may-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-may-2022/)

**Strengthening the sector: a video message from PSNC’s CEO**

PSNC Chief Executive Janet Morrison has recorded a video message for community pharmacy contractors about her personal reflections on the [**proposals for the future of PSNC and LPCs**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-representation-review-psnc-reaction-to-rsg-proposals/) made by the Pharmacy Representation Review Steering Group (RSG). Watch the video message: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/strengthening-the-sector-a-video-message-from-psncs-ceo/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/strengthening-the-sector-a-video-message-from-psncs-ceo/)

**Ten more SSPs issued for HRT medicines**

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of some Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines, DHSC has issued a further **ten** new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs). Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ten-more-ssps-issued-for-hrt-medicines/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ten-more-ssps-issued-for-hrt-medicines/)

**Survey on Pharmacy Vaccination Services**

The [**World Pharmacy Council**](https://www.worldpharmacycouncil.org/) (WPC), working with Pfizer, is asking community pharmacists from around the world to contribute to the future direction of the sector. Complete the survey: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/can-you-help-survey-on-pharmacy-vaccination-services/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/can-you-help-survey-on-pharmacy-vaccination-services/)

**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.