

LPC summer newsletter LPC 2018

Dear contractors,

It has been a busy and challenging time with the quality payment scheme deadline just passing. I hope you have all engaged and kept evidence of your participation in the event that post verification payment is requested.

Changes to funding arrangements

Recently the PSNC have announced a further change to the funding arrangements; it is essential that contractors take note of this and ensure they prepare for cash flow reductions and ensuring their business remains sustainable.

The LPC have raised concerns on behalf of contractors alongside other LPC's across the country. The PSNC are doing all the can to minimise the impact where possible.

PSNC Statement regarding Funding cuts July 2018 (from CPN magazine July 2018)

The Category M reimbursement prices for July 2018 show a net overall reduction of around £15 million per month for medicines compared to April 2018.

This equates to a reduction in Average Item Value of approximately 17 pence per item on all items.

The movement in July is driven by an overall reduction in manufacturers' selling out prices in the reference period (January to March 2018), mostly associated with price concession lines, and not due to planned management of retained margin. Since we were made aware of the new prices we have been in constant contact with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to validate their analysis.

PSNC is working with DHSC on the 2017/18 margins survey to ensure that the full effect of price concessions is accurately captured. However, at this point it is unclear what will happen to the August 2018 Drug Tariff. We will inform contractors via our usual channels once more information is known.

Save the Date LLRLPC AGM

Save the date : The LPC AGM will be held on Monday 24th September. The LPC will request PSNC attendance to explain the situation and future changes in more detail.

Virtual outcomes and engagement with health promotion

Currently we have 32/223 active pharmacies in LLR completing the training

Please could I ask that you engage with the training and ensure you and your teams are completing the training. This supports HLP evidence portfolio and collection of evidence and ensures we are engaging with key health promotions as directed by NHSE, This is now available as an app to help

you complete this on the move. <http://psnc.org.uk/leicestershire-and-rutland-lpc/our-news/llrlpc-launches-on-line-training-solution-for-all-pharmacies-provided-by-virtual-outcomes/>

Branded Generics update

The 2018-19 branded generic switches have not been agreed for all CCG's in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We will update you when we have this information.

Last years switches currently still stand which have been sent you and can be found in the LPC newsletters section of the website

Leicester city : <https://psnc.org.uk/leicestershire-and-rutland-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2018/04/Leicester-City-CCG-Switches-April-2018.pdf>

Leicester city have 3 additional switches which include diltizem to tilidem ; Cialis to generic and calcium and ergocalciferol to adcal.

East Leicestershire ccg : <http://psnc.org.uk/leicestershire-and-rutland-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2017/12/East-Leicestershire-and-Rutland-Branded-generics.pdf>

West Leicestershire CCG <http://psnc.org.uk/leicestershire-and-rutland-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2016/06/WL-CCG-Prescribing-changes-2017-18-Final-April-2017.pdf>

Other matters.

- 1. CPAF engagement**
- 2. DIMURS Launch notification : please complete the expression of interest survey**
- 3. AF screening project – Leicester city – for information**
- 4. PSNC flu vaccination webinar 15th August – please sign up (please ensure you undertake flu training as soon as possible to be ready for September launch)**
- 5. New Flu service declaration of competence launched**
- 6. Valproate safety initiative – women of childbearing age (CP toolkit and Clinical audit link)**
- 7. NHS 111 online launch Leicester**

1.CPAF engagement

CPAF engagement finished at 98% with a couple of contractors who still did not complete this. I urge you all that everyone engages with this next year. I had also sent reminders and contacted the 13 pharmacies outstanding on receipt of the data.

2.Launch of NHSE DIMUR's project Important notification

We have some exciting news for contractors regarding some new services; NHSE Pharmacy Integration funded Digital Minor Illness Scheme which involves referrals from NHS 111 to Community Pharmacy.

a.Please Save the date for training and launch – 11th September 2018 (FOR TRAINING) location TBC

[b.Key Action for contractors : If you wish to participate in this service please complete the survey monkey deadline 14th September](#)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XZN27XW>

A service has been running successfully in North East England since December 2017 where various low acuity calls to NHS 111 are referred to community pharmacies. This is known as 'Digital Minor Illness Referral Service (DMIRS).

The Service is being extended to include the geography covered by NHS 111 provider DHU (Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire). The service is funded through the Pharmacy Integration Fund.

The purpose of the Digital Minor Illness Referral Service (DMIRS) is to reduce the burden on urgent and emergency care services by referring patients requiring low acuity advice and treatment from NHS 111 to community pharmacy. Its aim is to ensure that patients have access to the same if not better levels of care, closer to home and with a self-care emphasis.

The agreement is for the pharmacy to provide self-care advice and support, including printed information, to all individuals referred to the pharmacy by NHS 111 on the management of specified low acuity conditions. The service level agreement is being finalised at present once this has been approved it will be sent out to all pharmacies, and head offices for the multiples.

The aim is to have the service going live in September.

We will be having launch events in conjunction with your LPC for Community Pharmacy across the area and would like for you all to attend to understand more about the service and to answer questions before the service goes live and referrals are made.

Should you have any questions on the service please contact us or your local LPC who will be able to help.

Kind Regards

Vicky Lewin v.lewin@nhs.net

3. AF screening project – Leicester City CCG

The LPN and LPC are currently in the process of developing a service for AF screening project using alivecor to be delivered alongside the delivery of the national flu vaccination service.

Leicester City have a 40.8% predicted number of undiagnosed AF patients = over 2000 patients and so this service could be significant in terms of ensuring patients with undiagnosed AF undergo an ECG and treated to prevent strokes.

We will keep you updated as this develops

4. PSNC National Flu service launch webinar 15th August 2018

Please **sign up here** (press ctrl and click on the sign up here)

The Flu Vaccination Advanced Service will differ for 2018/19, **highlighting some important changes community pharmacy teams need to be aware of.**

1. **New digital submission process for flu vaccination claims will be described**
1. **Guidance on managing the over 65 years and over group with the adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (Ativ) will be covered**

Who should sign up?

This webinar will be of most interest to those contractors and pharmacy team members who are planning to take part in this year's Flu Vaccination Advanced Service. Find out more about the service at: psnc.org.uk/flu

During the 60-minute webinar, there will be an opportunity for viewers to ask questions; so let us help

5. New Flu declaration of competence launched

<http://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-vaccination-services-declaration-of-competence-launched/>

The Community Pharmacy Competence Group (CPCG) has published a new combined Vaccination Services Declaration of Competence (DoC) which is hosted on the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education website.

Previously, there were two separate DoC frameworks for vaccination services; the NHS Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service and other locally commissioned Immunisation services; these two have been merged into a single DoC.

It is recommended you complete this every two years so if you completed this last year you do not need to complete it again

7. Patient Safety – Valproate (Community Pharmacy packs and national guidance)

Valproate (Epilim, Depakote and other generic brands) is associated with a significant risk of birth defects and developmental disorders in children born to women who take valproate during pregnancy.

Valproate is a treatment for epilepsy and bipolar disorder and is prescribed to thousands of women. Since its introduction in 1974, the product information for doctors has included a warning about the possible risk of birth defects. As the risks to unborn children have been increasingly understood, the warnings have been strengthened.

In March 2018 the CMDh [endorsed a strengthened regulatory position](#) on valproate medicines.

Valproate must no longer be used in any woman or girl able to have children unless she has a pregnancy prevention programme in place. This is designed to make sure patients are fully aware of the risks and the need to avoid becoming pregnant.

It is important women don't stop taking valproate without first discussing it with their doctor.

Key messages

1. Healthcare professionals who seek to prescribe valproate to their female patients must make sure they are enrolled in the Pregnancy prevention programme
2. This includes the completion of a signed risk acknowledgement form when their treatment is reviewed by a specialist, at least annually.
3. These regulatory changes will be further supported in the upcoming months by:
4. smaller pack sizes to encourage monthly prescribing and a pictogram/warning image on valproate labelling

All women and girls who are prescribed valproate should contact their GP and arrange to have their treatment reviewed.

Key Resources

1.Link to MHRA Patient information leaflets and further details a :

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/valproate-use-by-women-and-girls#toolkit>

The national Patient Safety community group have launched a community pharmacy toolkit and also a clinical audit link to support pharmacies to provide key messages and information on this safety initiative.

2.Community Pharmacy toolkit : <https://pharmacysafety.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/valproate-safe-supply-community-pharmacy-final.pdf>

3.Community Pharmacy clinical audit link

<https://www.thecca.org.uk/files/Valproate%20safety%20audit%20FINAL%20140618.pdf>

8.Introducing NHS111 Online in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland (LLR)

From **18th July 2018** patients in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland will be able to access urgent medical advice online at 111.nhs.uk.

This new, national internet/online service is in addition to the existing phone line, and will provide a fast and convenient digital alternative to using the phone. It has been developed in response to user feedback and insights from patients who have accessed other emergency care services.

111 online helps people to access urgent healthcare using their smartphone, laptop or other digital device. People can raise and quickly receive answers to questions about their symptoms, with tailored advice on what to do next and where to go if further advice or treatment is needed. If appropriate, the service will also arrange for them to receive a call back from a nurse, doctor or other trained medical professional.

Initially, people will be signposted to the service via a recorded message when they call 111. Across LLR we are not undertaking a major marketing campaign or promoting the new service in other ways until the new service has had time to settle and we fully understand the demand for 111.nhs.uk and the impact on local services. We will however, closely monitor its use by the public and respond accordingly.

I hope that you will find the attached information about 111.nhs.uk useful. Should you have any questions about the new service, please do get in touch by email

to: Elizabeth.amias@westleicestershireccg.nhs.uk