**Key News and Guidance for LPCs: COVID-19**

 *Week ending 7th June*

**COVID-19 general updates**

**NHS Test and Trace: Update for community pharmacy**

PSNC is continuing to urgently seek guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on whether the Government advice on the [**management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings) applies to community pharmacy and on whether pharmacy team members asked to self-isolate for 14 days with no symptoms will be eligible for a coronavirus test – so that if they test negative, they could return to work earlier. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-test-and-trace-update-for-community-pharmacy/>

**LPC News: Booking now open for virtual meeting of LPCs and PSNC**

LPCs are now able to register to attend the virtual meeting of LPCs and PSNC on Wednesday 8th July. The meeting will give LPCs and PSNC the opportunity to discuss the findings of the independent review into community pharmacy contractor representation and support. Attendees will hgear from the review author, Professor David Wright, and have the chance to question him on his report. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/lpc-news-booking-now-open-for-virtual-meeting-of-lpcs-and-psnc/>

**Contractor notice: SSP05 Fluoxetine 10mg tablets extended**

On 12th March 2020 it was [**announced**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ssp-issued-for-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets-urgent-actions-required-by-pharmacy-teams/) that the Secretary of State had authorised a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) to help manage the supply of Fluoxetine 10mg tablets. This SSP has been extended (previous end date was 12th June 2020) and will now end on 11th September 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp05-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets-extended/>

**COVID-19: Advice for smokers and vapers**

Public Health England (PHE) has released advice for smokers and vapers that could be used by healthcare professionals to encourage patients to quit smoking in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-advice-for-smokers-and-vapers/>

**Supporting carers during the COVID-19 pandemic**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacies have had to make necessary changes to their usual ways of working in order to ensure local communities can continue to access their medicines. The Carers Trust has reported that some carers have had difficulty coping with some of these changes and - in partnership with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and PSNC – are asking pharmacy teams to consider some additional actions to support carers in the community. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supporting-carers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

**IT updates**

**New COVID-19 codes added to SCR additional information**

New COVID-19 SNOMED CT codes have been added to SCR additional information to capture suspected or confirmed COVID-19 status from GP systems. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-covid-19-codes-added-to-scr-additional-information/>

**Temporary changes to eRD consent model to encourage uptake**

Patient consent requirements for electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) have been temporarily suspended to encourage wider use of the system during the COVID-19 pandemic. NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have [**written to community pharmacies and GP practices**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0546-electronic-repeat-dispensing-letter-4-june-2020.pdf) to explain the changes to the consent model for eRD and to highlight this opportunity for eRD to be further utilised to benefit more patients. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/temporary-changes-to-erd-consent-model-to-encourage-uptake/>

**COVID-19: Smartcard multi-side code added to cards of pharmacy professionals**

NHS Digital are adding the multi-site FFFFF Smartcard code to Smartcards with the pharmacist or technician role, for the duration of the pandemic. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-smartcard-multi-site-code-added-to-cards-of-pharmacy-professionals/>

**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 webpage**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/) **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 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.