**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 19th July*

**10-minute digital guide to PQS now live**

A 10-minute digital guide to the new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for the first part of 2020/21 is now live. The new scheme was announced on 13th July 2020, with a focus on ensuring community pharmacy contractors and their teams have put in place all reasonable measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting both themselves and the people using their services. Access the guide and read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/10-minute-digital-guide-to-pqs-now-live/>

**Face coverings to be mandatory in shops and supermarkets from 24th July 2020**

In the past few weeks non-essential retail premises have reopened to the public and yesterday, it was announced that as part of a move to enhance protection for those that work in shops, as well as to give people more confidence to shop safely, face coverings would be made mandatory in shops (including pharmacies) and supermarkets from 24th July 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/face-coverings-to-be-mandatory-in-shops-and-supermarkets-from-24th-july-2020/>

**Contractor Notice: Further extension to SSP06 – Fluoxetine 40mg capsules**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has provided an update on the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules (SSP06). The SSP for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules has been extended until 10th August 2020. This expiry date may be brought forward or extended, and the content may be amended throughout this period. Pharmacists should ensure they are using the current version of an SSP before supplying an alternative product. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-further-extension-to-ssp06-fluoxetine-40mg-capsules/>

**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 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.