**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 16th August*

**Updated COVID-19 SOP: volunteers liability clarified and opening hours flexibility removed**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have issued an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for community pharmacies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first update since March, NHSE&I has removed the flexible opening provision that allowed pharmacies to close their doors to the public for up to 2.5 hours a day and clarified the indemnity/liability position of volunteers from the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS). Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/updated-covid-19-sop-volunteers-liability-clarified-and-opening-hours-flexibility-removed/>

**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). SSP06 for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules was previously expected to expire on 10th August but the end date has been further extended to **4th September 2020**. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-further-extension-to-ssp06-fluoxetine-40mg-capsules-2/>

**Have your say on the future of pharmacy representation**

In June 2020, Professor David Wright published the findings of his independent review into community pharmacy contractor representation and support. The review looked at the workings of LPCs and PSNC and it set out 33 recommendations for the future. LPCs and PSNC met in July to discuss the findings of the review, but we also want to hear from community pharmacy contractors about their views. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-pharmacy-representation/>

**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.