**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 23rd August*

**PSNC asks contractors to reconsider free provision of non-CPCF services**

PSNC has called on community pharmacy contractors to stop the free of charge provision of services that fall clearly outside the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). The call from PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes follows reports from contractors who are increasingly being asked to pick up primary care work which would normally fall outside of pharmacies’ funded services. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-asks-contractors-to-reconsider-free-provision-of-non-cpcf-services/>

**New measures to support safe use of stimulant laxatives available over the counter**

MHRA has introduced pack size restrictions, revised recommended ages for use, and new safety warnings for over-the-counter stimulant laxatives following a national safety review. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-measures-to-support-safe-use-of-stimulant-laxatives-available-over-the-counter/>

**Registration opens for Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme**

Heath Education England (HEE) has announced that it is now accepting applications to join the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP). This new education programme is part of a planned reform of pharmacist education, which has been accelerated to help mitigate the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the 2019/20 cohort of pre-registration pharmacists. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/registration-opens-for-interim-foundation-pharmacist-programme/>

**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.