**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 4th October*

**General/COVID**

**Reminder: All C-19 PPE now available FoC via portal**

Contractors are reminded that the Government’s PPE portal can now be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 personal protective equipment they need; the supplies will be provided free of charge. For more information read our full story: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-all-c-19-ppe-now-available-foc-via-portal/>

**September edition of CPN magazine is out**

Read the latest edition of CPN here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/september-edition-of-cpn-magazine-is-out/>

**Chief Executive’s blog: September 2020**

Simon Dukes, PSNC’s chief executive, writes a monthly blog which you can read here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-psnc-blog/chief-executives-blog-september-2020/>

**PQS**

**Deadline to claim PQS Part 2 Aspiration Payment is approaching**

The window for claiming the Aspiration Payment for the PQS Part 2 2020/21 closes on 9 October at 23:59. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-one-week-left-to-claim-pqs-part-2-aspiration-payment/>

**Part 2 PQS contractor bandings published**

Contractors will be aware that a new approach to allocating funding has been introduced in the Part 2 PQS for 2020/21. Each PQS domain has a varying number of points dependent on the participating contractor’s total prescription volume in 2019/20; each contractor is placed in one of the six volume bands based on their 2019/20 prescription volume. The NHSBSA has now published their allocation of contractors to the bands. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/part-2-pqs-contractor-bandings-published/>

**Regs**

**New GPhC guidance for staff training takes effect**

From 1 October, new GPhC requirements for the education and training of pharmacy support staff took effect. For further details, read our full story here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-gphc-guidance-for-staff-training-takes-effect/>

**Changes to regulations on single use plastic straws and plastic stemmed cotton buds**

Following a change in government policy, contractors are advised that it is now an offence for a person in the course of business to supply, or offer to supply, **single use plastic straws** or **single-use plastic stemmed cotton buds**, subject to two key exemptions for community pharmacy. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/changes-to-regulations-on-single-use-plastic-straws-and-plastic-stemmed-cotton-buds/>

**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.