**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 11th October*

**General/COVID**

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

PSNC has recommended some key actions for community pharmacy contractors on NHS Test and Trace following increasing reports that contractors are experiencing issues with the service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-test-and-trace-advice-for-community-pharmacy/>

**NHS Test and Trace discrepancies could close pharmacies down, warn industry leaders**

Last week pharmacy leaders wrote to Ministers and NHS officials with an urgent warning that NHS Test and Trace discrepancies pose a potential threat to the timely supply of medicines to local communities. Read their letter to Public Health Minister Jo Churchill here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-test-and-trace-discrepancies-could-close-pharmacies-down-warn-industry-leaders/>

**PQS**

**Additional guidance on PQS PCN Domains published**

Following the publication of the full Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) details on 27th August 2020 for 2020/21, additional guidance and resources have been published to support contractors, LPCs and Pharmacy PCN Leads meet the requirements of the scheme. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/additional-guidance-on-pqs-pcn-domains-published/>

**Flu**

[**Flu vac campaign materials on their way to pharmacies**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-campaign-materials-on-their-way-to-pharmacies/)

Public Health England (PHE) resources for the first mandated public health campaign of 2020/21, which community pharmacy contractors are required to participate in, will start arriving in pharmacies by courier from **Friday 9th October 2020**. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-campaign-materials-on-their-way-to-pharmacies/>

**PHE publish leaflet on flu vac supplies**

The Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England (PHE) and the NHS have published a leaflet for the public, which explains why some people eligible for flu vaccination are being asked to wait to get vaccinated. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/phe-leaflet-on-flu-vac-supplies-published/>

**Medicines supply**

**UPDATED: Priadel withdrawal paused while CMA investigate the supply**

Essential Pharma has informed the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) of its decision to reverse the discontinuation of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK market with immediate effect, whilst facilitating pricing discussions. As such the discontinuation notice issued to DHSC earlier this year has been withdrawn. Read more and view the CAS Alert here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/priadel-withdrawal-paused-while-cma-investigate-the-supply/>

**Contractor notice: SSP06 Fluoxetine 40mg capsules expired**

Following the implementation of SSP06, it appears that sufficient stock of Fluoxetine 40mg capsules is now available to supply normal demand; as a result, the **SSP06 for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules expired at 23.55pm Friday 2nd October 2020**. Any prescriptions for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules after this date must be dispensed in accordance with the prescription, as the SSP will no longer be valid for use. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp06-fluoxetine-40mg-capsules-expired/>

**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.