**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 22nd November*

**General/COVID**

**50-64 year old flu vacs to start 1st December**

On 20 November, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced that community pharmacy contractors and general practices [**will be able to vaccinate 50 to 64 year olds against flu**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-flu-vaccinations-rolled-out-to-over-50s-from-december) **from Tuesday 1st December 2020**. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/50-64-year-old-flu-vacs-to-start-1st-dec/>

**November 2020 Price Concessions – 1st update**

Last week the DHSC granted an initial list of price concessions. View these here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-2020-price-concessions-1st-update/>

**Becoming and maintaining HLP status to meet the new requirements**

The Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) requirements will become part of the new Terms of Service for all pharmacies from 1 January 2021. PSNC has produced additional resources to provide guidance to assist with implementation or ongoing review of HLP status. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/becoming-and-maintaining-hlp-status-to-meet-the-new-requirements/>

**Pharmacy NHSmail accounts are being upgraded**

The NHSmail team are upgrading pharmacy NHSmail accounts in November and December 2020 to further improve the NHSmail service. The upgrade will enable pharmacy NHSmail users to utilise a range of Microsoft Office 365 apps and featured, some of which they have had access to before the account upgrade. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-nhsmail-accounts-are-being-upgraded/>

**November LPC Conference: Pandemic brings improved LPC stakeholder relationships**

The November Meeting of LPCs and PSNC was held last week (17 November). This gave LPC delegates an update on PSNC’s negotiations, information about progress on the next steps for the Wright Review and provided an opportunity to share learnings on topical issues. As part of the polls incorporated into the conference, LPCs indicated that 2020 has brought improvements in their working relationships both with PSNC and with local stakeholders. For more information read our news story following the conference: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-lpc-conference-pandemic-brings-improved-lpc-stakeholder-relationships/>

**APPG launches inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on pharmacy**

The All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) has launched a flash inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on pharmacy. The aim of this work is to examine the impact of the pandemic on the pharmacy sector, understanding the pressures and challenges that frontline pharmacy teams and pharmacy contractors are facing. To inform this work, a survey for the pharmacy workforce has been issued, which contractors and pharmacy staff are encouraged to complete. Read more and access the survey here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/appg-launches-inquiry-into-the-impact-of-covid-on-pharmacy/>

**Self Care Week 2020**

Last week was Self Care Week, an annual national awareness week that focuses on providing support for self care across communities and families. As community pharmacies are ideally placed to offer opportunistic health advice and tips for self care, we shared some resources to help promote this role. These are available for general use – not just during Self Care Week – and are available here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/self-care-week-2020/>

**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.