**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 24th January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Pharmacy run COVID-19 vaccination sites target health inequalities**

A second wave of community pharmacies joined the NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme last week. The 65 pharmacy-run sites began offering vaccination appointments from Thursday 21st January. Playing to the strengths of community pharmacies as socially inclusive healthcare providers, the majority of the sites are in areas where they are best placed to reach groups at higher risk of mortality from COVID-19 or where, until now, there has been no local vaccination site. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-run-covid-19-vaccination-sites-target-health-inequalities/>

**Indemnity arrangements for the COVID-19 vaccination programme - update**

DHSC confirmed that indemnity arrangements for community pharmacy teams providing COVID-19 vaccinations have been extended until 30th June 2021. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/indemnity-arrangements-for-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-update/>

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021: Paperwork and guidance now available**

Guidance is available for community pharmacy teams taking part in next week’s Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2021-paperwork-and-guidance-now-available/>

**Discharge Medicines Service DoC now available**

The Declaration of Competence (DoC) to support provision of the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) is now available on the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) website. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/discharge-medicines-service-doc-now-available/>

**PSNC launches GP CPCS animation**

PSNC has launched a video animation and infographic explaining how GP practices can refer into the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS). View the animation here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-launches-gp-cpcs-animation/>

**CPCS IT support extended until 30th September**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has announced that funding for the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT systems has been extended for an extra six months – until 30th September 2021. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-support-extended-until-30th-september/>

**Contractor Notice: Further extension to SSP08**

The DHSC has provided an update on the Serious Shortage Protocols for Salazopyrin EN-Tabs 500mg until 26th February 2021. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-further-extension-to-ssp08/>

**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.