**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 7th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Reminder: Deadline to claim for PPE payment**

A reminder was published informing community pharmacy contractors that the deadline to claim reimbursement for expenditure on PPE is 12th February 2021. More information is available here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-one-week-left-to-claim-for-ppe-payment/>

**Final reminder: Have you submitted your 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit data?**

Any pharmacy that took part in the 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit must submit their data via PharmOutccomes by Friday 12th February. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/final-reminder-have-you-submitted-your-2021-pharmacy-advice-audit-data/>

**NHSE&I issue guidance on flu vacs for 2021/22**

NHS England & NHS Improvement issued a letter on 4th February providing information on the flu vaccines which will be reimbursable under the 2021/22 Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-issue-guidance-on-flu-vacs-for-2021-22/>

**SSP issued for Levothryoxine 12.5mcg tablets: urgent actions required by pharmacy teams**

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablets, a Serious Shortage Protocol was issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ssp-issued-for-levothyroxine-12-5mcg-tablets-urgent-actions-required-by-pharmacy-teams/>

**PQS Part 2 payment window opens**

The payment window for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2021/22 Part 2 is open. Contractors can claim up until 23:59 on 1st March 2021 through the MYS portal. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-part-2-payment-window-opens/>

**CPN magazine: First issue of 2021 published**

The January 2021 edition of PSNC’s Community Pharmacy News (CPN) is now available. Read and download: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpn-magazine-first-issue-of-2021-published/>

**Claims for COVID-19 Vaccination Local Enhanced Service**

A story was published on claims for pharmacies providing the COVID-19 Vaccination Local Enhanced Service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/claims-for-covid-19-vaccination-local-enhanced-service/>

**January 2021 Price Concessions 4th Update**

A final list of price concessions for January 2021 was published: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-2021-price-concessions-4th-update/>

**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.