**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 14th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Update on PSNC funding negotiations**

PSNC issued an update on negotiations, outlining its position that we believe community pharmacy contractors must be compensated for the full impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their businesses. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-psnc-funding-negotiations/>

**Reminder: Final day to claim for PPE payment**

The final day to claim for PPE payment was 12th February 2021 and we published a reminder. Full story is available here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-one-day-left-to-claim-for-ppe-payment/>

**PQS Declaration and the PCN Business Continuity Domain**

PSNC is continuing to receive queries regarding interpretation of the requirements to meet Domain 5, the Primary Care Network (PCN) Business continuity element of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2021/21 Part 2. Additional guidance was published in a news story which is available here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-declaration-and-the-pcn-business-continuity-domain/>

**Prime Minister backs community pharmacy**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson signalled his support for community pharmacies and reimbursing their COVID-19 costs in comments made during a Downing Street press briefing last week. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/prime-minister-backs-community-pharmacy/>

**PSNC published 2019/20 annual report**

PSNC has published an annual report for 2019/20, setting out the work it has done on behalf of community pharmacy contractors in the last financial year. The report covers key achievements and ongoing projects that PSNC has worked on. The report also talks more about the impact of COVID-19. Read the report here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-publishes-2019-20-annual-report/>

**Pharmacy Acess Scheme update**

The planned update to the Pharmacy Scheme (PhAS) has been delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the scheme will continue in its current form into the next financial year. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-access-scheme-update/>

**Pharmacy staff COVID-19 vaccinations**

PSNC published some information for pharmacy staff requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, including how to book appointments. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-staff-c-19-vaccination/>

**Advice on the complaints process for pharmacies**

Due to the ongoing pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DHSC recently indicated some flexibility in the NHS complaints procedure. Contractors can access more information via the following story: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/advice-on-the-complaints-process-for-pharmacies/>

**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.