**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 31st January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021 extended**

The deadline for participation in the 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit has been extended to allow for more pharmacy teams to take part. More information is available here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2021-extended/>

**PQS: Completing your declaration**

Contractors will be able to make a declaration for a Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) payment for the 2020/21 Part 2 Scheme between 09:00 on Thursday 4th February 2021 and 23:59 on Monday 1st March 2021. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-completing-your-declaration/>

**PQS declaration: delay in opening of portal**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) notified pharmacy contractors that there will be a delay in opening the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. See above story for subsequent date or read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-declaration-delay-in-opening-of-portal/>

**January 2021 Price Concessions – 4th update**

On 29th January, a fourth update to price concessions was granted. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-2021-price-concessions-4th-update/>

**PDA launches web portal to support locums getting vaccinated**

The Pharmacists’ Defence Association (PDA) has developed a web portal to assist locum pharmacists with accessing a COVID-19 vaccination. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pda-launches-web-portal-to-support-locums-getting-vaccinated/>

**South Tyneside pharmacists make COVID vaccination house calls**

Community pharmacists in South Tyneside have begun vaccinating housebound patients against COVID-19 to support local vaccination efforts. Read more about this service here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/south-tyneside-pharmacists-make-covid-vaccination-house-calls/>

**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: PPE claim deadline and payment dates**

The deadline for claiming reimbursement for personal protective equipment (PPE) is 11:59pm on Friday 12th February. For more information read the following story: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ppe-claim-deadline-and-payment-dates/>

**New SSP issued for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules**

A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) was issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-issued-for-fluoxetine-40mg-capsules/>

**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.