**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 7th March*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**PQS part 2 claim window closed**

The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2020/21 part 2 payment claim window closed on 01/03/21. Community Pharmacy contractors had until 23.59 on 1st March to claim for this payment through the MYS portal. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/final-reminder-pqs-part-2-claim-window-closes-today/

**MHRA class 3 medicines recall: Easyhaler Salbutamol Sulfate 100 and 200micrograms per actuation**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a class 3 medicines recall for: Easyhaler Salbutamol Sulfate 100 & 200micrograms per actuation inhalation powder. Orion Corporation T/A Orion Pharma (UK) Ltd are recalled the following batches below as a precautionary measure:

* Easyhaler Salbutamol Sulfate 100micrograms per actuation inhalation powder PL 27925/0002 Batch number: **2009598**
* Easyhaler Salbutamol Sulfate 200micrograms per actuation inhalation powder PL 27925/0003 Batch number: **2016511**

Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-3-medicines-recall-easyhaler-salbutamol-sulfate-100-200micrograms-per-actuation/

**PSNC calls on Chancellor to write off pharmacies COVID loans**

Ahead of the Budget on 03/03/21, PSNC called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to intervene in the ongoing C-19 funding negotiations and ensure that pharmacies do not have to pay back any of the £370m in emergency loans they received last year. In a letter sent to the Chancellor, PSNC CEO Simon Dukes said, “Community pharmacies are the most accessible providers of NHS services in the country, and like the rest of the NHS they expect the Government to honour its commitment to give the NHS whatever it needs.” Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-calls-on-chancellor-to-write-off-pharmacies-covid-loans/>

**PSNC Budget response**

In response to the announcement of the Budget on 03/03/21, PSNC Chief Executive, Simon Dukes commented: "HM Government states that it has provided £63 billion for frontline health services during the pandemic, yet it has still not taken this opportunity to commit to paying pharmacies the £400m that they have spent in responding to COVID-19 […] This is exasperating and disappointing [...] Pharmacies have spent their emergency COVID-19 loans on staying open so that their local communities could continue to rely on them throughout the pandemic [and must] have the costs for running NHS services fully covered: PSNC cannot accept any less, and we will continue to press this point. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-calls-on-chancellor-to-write-off-pharmacies-covid-loans/

**Supply disruption alert: Repaglinide 1mg and 2mg tablets**

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) issued a medicine supply disruption alert for **Repaglinide 1mg and 2mg tablets. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-repaglinide-1mg-and-2mg-tablets/**

**Contractor notice: extension to SSP010**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) provided an update on the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablets (SSP010). The revised end date for SSP010 is now **12th March 2021. Read more here:** <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-extension-to-ssp10/>

**PEPS payment information**

Contractors signed up to the Pharmacy Earlier Payments Scheme (PEPS) will have received their payments on 1 March directly from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) instead of the finance company Greensill Capital. PSNC raised the Greensill Capital issue with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and received the following statement: ‘*Pharmacy contractors will continue to be paid. We are aware of developments with Greensill Capital and are in discussions to determine the next steps. We will provide an update when these have been finalised*.’ PSNC will continue to closely monitor the Greensil Capital situation. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/peps-payments/

**No smoking day 2021**

No Smoking Day is a national campaign that encourages the nation’s smokers to make a quit attempt on the second Wednesday of March each year. No smoking day this year is on 10th March 2021. The day is an important opportunity to engage smokers in your local community, encouraging them to quit and access local stop smoking support. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/no-smoking-day-2021/>

**Ventilation of indoor spaces to reduce the spread of C-19**

New guidance has been published by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on how ventilation in the workplace can help to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus/>

**Briefing MPs on C-19 costs**

PSNC is continuing its work to brief Parliamentarians on the financial pressures facing community pharmacies. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/briefing-mps-on-covid-19-costs/

**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.