**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 14th March*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Contractor Notice: SSP08: Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg expired**

Following the implementation of SSP08, DHSC announced that sufficient stock of Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg is available to supply normal demand; as a result the **SSP08 for Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg expired at 23.55pm on Monday 8th March 2021. Read more here:** <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp08-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-expired/>

**MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Diazepam 2mg/5ml Oral Solution Sugar Free (Accord-UK Ltd)**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a Class 4 Medicines Defect Information for Diazepam 2mg/5ml Oral Solution Sugar Free (Accord-UK Ltd) (PL 0142/0103). Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-diazepam-2mg-5ml-oral-solution-sugar-free-accord-uk-ltd/>

**Smartcard access to MYS portal coming to an end**

From 18 April 2021, users of Manage Your Service (MYS) will not be able to access the MYS portal using their NHS Smartcards. Smartcard users must register to access MYS using their NHSmail login credentials before 11.59pm on Sunday 18 April 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smartcard-access-to-mys-portal-coming-to-an-end/

**Ordering more lateral flow devices for staff testing**

NHS England and NHS Improvement announced during the week that all primary care contractors, including pharmacy contractors, would be invited to place their second round of orders for lateral flow devices (LFDs). The invitation to place an order should have come directly from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) and the ordering and delivery process works in the same manner as for the first round. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ordering-more-lateral-flow-devices-for-staff-testing/

**Professional bodies publish pharmacy inclusivity plan**

A national plan outlining how the pharmacy sector can work together to embed inclusive practice into patient care has been published by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK). Read more about the pharmacy inclusivity plan here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/professional-bodies-publish-pharmacy-inclusivity-plan/>

**New NHS prescription charge cards**

Following the [**recent announcement**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/prescription-charge-to-rise-to-9-35/) of the rise in NHS prescription charges to £9.35 from 1st April 2021, PSNC has designed NHS Prescription Charge Cards to print and display in community pharmacies. PSNC has produced two versions of the 2021/22 charge cards as downloadable PDFs: Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/download-the-new-nhs-prescription-charge-cards/>

**Recording of ‘Your Representation, Your Say’ event now available**

Community pharmacy contractors who were unable to attend the ‘Your Representation, Your Say’ engagement event hosted by the community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG) on the 9th March 2021 can now view an on-demand version. View the recording here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/recording-of-your-representation-your-say-event-now-available/>

**SSP07 and SSP010 extended**

The SSP07 for Fluoxetine 30mg capsules was previously expected to expire on 12th March 2021 but the end date has been further extended to **17th May 2021**. The SSP010 for Levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablets was previously expected to expire on 12th March 2021 but the end date has been further extended to **19th March 2021**. Read more about these SSPs here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp07-and-ssp010-extended/>

**New video message from PSNC CEO**

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded another video message for community pharmacy contractors and their teams. Watch the video here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-video-message-from-psnc-ceo/

**MPs back pharmacy and call for more financial support in debate**

In a Westminster Hall debate on Thursday 11th March on the effect of the C-19 pandemic on community pharmacies, MPs from across all political parties expressed their support and appreciation for the sector. Read more about the debate here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mps-defend-pharmacy-and-call-for-more-financial-support-in-debate/>

**Free CPCS training**

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Royal College of General Practitioners are providing free Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) workshops for pharmacists. The workshops, funded by NHS England and NHS Improvement, via Health Education England, will help pharmacists to build their confidence and practice the skills they need to help people when providing the CPCS. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacists-have-you-booked-your-free-cpcs-training-2/

**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.