**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 21st March*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**CPPE launches Fundamentals of palliative care e-course**

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a Fundamentals of palliative care e-course. The course aims to support pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to provide a person-centred holistic approach to palliative care, which goes beyond the supply of medicines. Read more about this course here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cppe-launches-fundamentals-of-palliative-care-e-course/>

**MHRA Class 3 Medicines Recall: Itraconazole 10mg/ml oral solution (Thame Laboratories)**

Last week, the Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a class 3 medicines recall for: **Itraconazole 10mg/ml oral solution (Thame Laboratories) PL 39307/0069. Read more about this medicines recall here:** <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-3-medicines-recall-itraconazole-10mg-ml-oral-solution-thame-laboratories/>

**Reminder: Upcoming Pharmacist Support Wellbeing Workshop**

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that PSNC will be hosting a Wellbeing Workshop from Pharmacist Support at **7.30pm on Monday 29th March**. This is the second opportunity to join this PSNC hosted workshop following a successful event in February. With Pharmacist Support’s extensive experience in the wellbeing arena, PSNC wanted to provide a forum for these workshops to help them reach (and benefit) a larger audience. Read more about this event here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-upcoming-pharmacist-support-wellbeing-workshop/>

**Book now for AMS virtual event**

The Public Health England (PHE) English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR) team will be hosting a virtual event on antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) on Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 7pm. Contractors must register for this event by **26th March, 2021**. Register for this event here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/book-now-for-ams-virtual-event/>

**Pandemic Delivery Service: Addition of Self-isolators and funding changes**

On the 16th of March 2021, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) announced an extension to the group of patients entitled to assistance with the delivery of prescriptions, as part of the Pandemic Delivery Service. Additionally, following a request from PSNC, increased funding for the Essential service responsibilities has been agreed to reflect the larger number of patients now covered by the service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-funding-changes-and-addition-of-self-isolators/>

**Download the new Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) poster**

Following the [**recent announcement**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/prescription-charge-to-rise-to-9-35/) of the rise in NHS Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) prices from 1st April 2021, PSNC has designed a poster explaining the savings that a PPC could achieve for patients that regularly pay for their prescriptions. PSNC has produced two versions (black and white and colour) of the 2021/22 PPC poster as downloadable PDFs that can be printed and displayed in community pharmacies from **1st April 2021**. Download the new PPC poster here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/download-the-new-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc-charges-poster/>

**Accounting for C-19 advanced payments**

Last summer community pharmacies received a cumulative £370m in incremental advances. These were loans to ease cashflow pressures while more formal data gathering and assessment of the costs of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic were collated. The advances were not ‘new money’ for the sector, and it was clearly stated that the payments would need to be reconciled at a later data following negotiations between DHSC and PSNC. The negotiations are ongoing. Subsequently, contractors will need to discuss how to account for these loans at their year-end with their accountants or auditors. PSNC’s professional advisors have stated that they would expect that advances would be kept on a contractor’s balance sheet as creditors, and that in general loans are not subject to corporation tax. However, PSNC cannot give formal tax advice and so if you are unsure about how you should account for the advances please seek advice from a professional. Read more about pharmacy funding during the pandemic here: <https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/funding-during-the-pandemic/>

**Reminder: statutory requirement to report test results from LFDs**

Following on from our news story last week advising community pharmacy contractors that they have been invited to place their [**second round of orders for lateral flow devices (LFDs)**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ordering-more-lateral-flow-devices-for-staff-testing/), contractors and pharmacy teams are reminded of the need to report**all** test results (negative, void or positive) online. Learn more about LFDs here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-statutory-requirement-to-report-test-results-from-lfds/>

**Medicine Supply Notification: oral contraceptive tablets**

Last week the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **oral contraceptive tablets** of various brands. Read more about the Medicine Supply Notification here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-oral-contraceptive-tablets-various-brands/>

**Supply notification update: H2-antagonists (Cimetidine, Famotidine and Nizatidine)**

Last week a supply notification update was issued **for H2-antagonists (Cimetidine, Famotidine and Nizatidine)**. Read more about this supply notification here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-notification-h2-antagonists-cimetidine-famotidine-and-nizatidine/>

**Medicine Supply Notification****: Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets**

Last week the DHSC issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets.** Read more about this Medicine Supply Notification here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-irbesartan-hydrochlorothiazide-150mg-12-5mg-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-irbesartan-hydrochlorothiazide-150mg-12-5mg-tablets/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Enalapril 5mg tablets**

Last week the DHSC issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Enalapril 5mg tablets**. Learn more about this Medicine Supply Notification: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/shortage-of-enalapril-5mg-tablets/>

**#Pharmacy24 to promote pharmacy teams’ work in the pandemic**

An annual social media event celebrating the work of pharmacy will this year be focusing on the sector’s contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic and on promoting diversity within the sector. Scheduled for **Wednesday 7th April 2021**, #Pharmacy24 aims to capitalise on the reach and influence of social media to showcase the hard work pharmacy teams are doing to keep the public safe during the pandemic. During the 24-hour period, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and other pharmacy staff are invited to promote pharmacy by sharing their work successes across all social media platforms with the hashtag [**#Pharmacy24**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/pharmacy24). Find out how you and your team can get involved here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy24-to-promote-pharmacy-teams-work-in-the-pandemic/>

**New Applications for PEPS suspended**

Contractors should note that from the 18th March 2021 the Pharmacy Earlier Payment Scheme (PEPS) is suspended until further notice in respect of any new contractors wishing to join the scheme. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-new-applications-for-peps-suspended/>

**Contractor Notice: SSP010 for Levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablets extended**

On Friday 19th March 2021, the DHSC announced an extension of the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablets (SSP010). SSP010 was previously expected to expire on 19th March 2021, but the end date has now been extended to 26th March 2021. Read more about the extension of SSP010 here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp010-for-levothyroxine-12-5mcg-extended/>

**March 2021 Price Concessions: 1st Update**

At the end of the week, the DHSC released its first price concessions update for the month of March. See the list of price concessions here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/march-2021-price-concessions-1st-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.