**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 11th April*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Prime Minister highlights C-19 test distribution service – have you signed up yet?**

In the Number 10 press conference on April 6th, Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighted that everyone in England is to be given access to two free coronavirus tests a week. He indicated that the coronavirus tests (lateral flow devices) would be available for free from pharmacies under a new ‘Pharmacy Collect’ service (as well as other locations) from Friday 9th April 2021. Community pharmacy contractors are encouraged to sign up to the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service as soon as possible. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/prime-minister-highlights-c-19-test-distribution-service-have-you-signed-up-yet/**

**Encouraging patients to support Oxford/AZ vaccine study**

Pharmacy teams are asked to encourage patients who have had the Oxford/AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine to participate in a safety study about the vaccine to ensure any side effects are quickly recognised and acted upon. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/encouraging-patients-to-support-oxfordaz-vaccine-study/**

**Ask PSNC: FAQs on the C-19 test distribution service**

To help community pharmacy teams implement the new Pharmacy Collect service, the Services Team at PSNC has prepared several FAQs. PSNC will publish More FAQs about the service in due course. See the list of FAQs here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ask-psnc-faqs-on-the-c-19-test-distribution-service/**

**C-19 test distribution service – promotional materials**

On April 7th, community pharmacy contractors that had signed up to provide the [NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service (Pharmacy Collect)](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/c-19-lateral-flow-device-distribution-service/) were alerted that they would shortly receive promotional materials for the service. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-test-distribution-service-promotional-materials/**

**IT case study: Pharmacy in Sheffield goes paperless**

The team at Foxhill Pharmacy in Sheffieldnow dispense around 16,000 prescriptions each month using a paperless Electronic Prescription Service operating model. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/it-case-study-pharmacy-in-sheffield-goes-paperless/**

**BOPA ‘Let’s Communicate Cancer Series’**

The British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA) has launched an educational series on how to discuss cancer, which may be useful for community pharmacy teams. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/bopa-lets-communicate-cancer-series/**

**C-19 Vaccines Update: New Advice for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued new advice to COVID-19 vaccination providers about the use of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. [Updated information is being provided for healthcare professionals](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca) on the possible risk of extremely rare and unlikely to occur specific types of blood clots following vaccination with the COVID-19 Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-vaccines-update-new-advice-for-the-oxford-astrazeneca-vaccine/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-vaccines-update-new-advice-for-the-oxford-astrazeneca-vaccine/)

**Submitting weekly data for the C-19 test distribution service**

Community pharmacy contractors who have signed up to deliver the C-19 test distribution service are reminded that they must record various information on the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Manage Your Service (MYS) portal by close of business on the pharmacy’s last trading day of each week. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-submitted-you-weekly-data-for-the-c-19-test-distribution-service/**

**Ask PSNC: FAQs on the C-19 test distribution service**

On the 9th of April, PSNC published its second set of FAQs on the C-19 test distribution service. See the list of FAQs here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ask-psnc-faqs-on-the-c-19-test-distribution-service-2/**

**Pharmacist and GP collaboration study: call for participants**

Community pharmacy teams are being invited to participate in a research study which aims to help community pharmacists and GPs work in a more collaborative way. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacist-and-gp-collaboration-study-call-for-participants/**

**C-19 test distribution service: update on ordering limits**

On Friday 9th April it was announced that supplies of lateral flow devices (LFDs) for use in the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 distribution service (Pharmacy Collect) are to be limited initially to one carton per pharmacy per day to support the equitable distribution of tests to all the community pharmacies that signed up to provide the service. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-test-distribution-service-update-on-ordering-limits/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-test-distribution-service-update-on-ordering-limits/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Diamorphine hydrochloride powder for 5mg and 10mg ampoules**

**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) for Diamorphine hydrochloride powder for reconstitution and injection 5mg and 10mg ampoules. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-hydrochloride-powder-for-reconstitution-and-injection-5mg-and-10mg-ampoules/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-hydrochloride-powder-for-reconstitution-and-injection-5mg-and-10mg-ampoules/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Haloperidol 5mg/5ml poral solution sugar free**

The DHSC has issued a MSN for Haloperidol 5mg/5ml poral solution sugar free (Thame Laboratories). Resupply of this product is expected sometime in late summer 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-haloperidol-5mg-5ml-oral-solution-sugar-free-thame-laboratories/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup**

The DHSC has issued a MSN for Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup (Advanz Pharma). Resupply of this product is expected late July 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-trifluoperazine-1mg-5ml-syrup-advanz-pharma/**

**HEE workforce survey to start in early May**

Health Education England (HEE) is repeating its workforce survey. Data collection is planned to start on 4th May 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hee-workforce-survey-to-start-in-early-may/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hee-workforce-survey-to-start-in-early-may/)

**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.