**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 25th April*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Category M price re-determination for Amantadine100mg capsules**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [**redetermined**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-tariff-re-determination-behalf-dhsc-amantadine-100mg-capsules) the Category M price for Amantadine 100mg capsules in the April 2021 [**Drug Tariff.**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff) The Part VIIIA Basic Price published in the April 2021 Drug Tariff for Amantadine 100mg capsules (56) is now **£26.34** instead of £11.25. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/category-m-price-re-determination-for-amantadine-100mg-capsules/**

**April 2021 Price Concessions first update**

The DHSC has issued a first initial list of Price Concessions for April 2021. See the full list here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/april-2021-price-concessions-1st-update/**

**Service case study: Hepatitis C testing supporting local case finding**

A pharmacy in South Shields (Carters Chemist) has worked locally with their LPC, the Operational Delivery Network based at a Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne and other stakeholders to successfully test a high number of patients for Hepatitis C. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/service-case-study-hep-c-testing-supporting-local-case-finding/**

**Over 90% of pharmacies providing the C-19 test distribution service**

The overwhelming majority of pharmacies in England are now signed up to participate in the NHS community pharmacy C-19 lateral flow device distribution service, demonstrating the sector’s commitment to supporting the nation during the pandemic. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-90-of-pharmacies-providing-c-19-test-distribution-service/**

**New advice on C-19 vaccination for pregnant women**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has [**issued new advice**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-new-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women) which says that pregnant women should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and clinical risk group. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-advice-on-c-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women/**

**Expanded NHSE&I mental health support service open to community pharmacy teams**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has strengthened its mental health support offer for all healthcare staff, including community pharmacy teams. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/expanded-nhsei-mental-health-support-service-open-to-community-pharmacy-teams/**

**AMS virtual event now on-demand**

Community pharmacy contractors can now access an online recording of the antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) virtual event, which was hosted by the Public Health England (PHE) English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR) team on 30th March 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ams-virtual-event-now-on-demand/**

**C-19 test distribution service: Providing information when supplying test kits**

Community pharmacy contractors participating in the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service (or ‘Pharmacy Collect’ as it is described in communications to the public) must ensure that people collecting test kits understand several key points. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-test-distribution-service-providing-information-when-supplying-test-kits/**

**Contractors encouraged to complete HEE workforce survey**

PSNC encourages all pharmacy contractors to participate in the Health Education England (HEE) workforce survey, as the results will help inform the future planning and funding in relation to the development of the community pharmacy workforce across the NHS in England. Read more about the HEE workforce survey here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractors-encouraged-to-complete-hee-workforce-survey/**

**Vaccine Supply Notification Update: Pneumovax 23 PFS**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Vaccine Supply Notification Update for 23 valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23) pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited). Supplies of this product **are currently very limited and are expected to be out of stock from the end of April until mid-May 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/vaccine-supply-notification-23-valent-polysaccharide-pneumococcal-vaccine-pneumovax-23-pre-filled-syringes-merck-sharp-and-dohme-limited/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Diazepam (Diazemuls) 10mg/2ml emulsion for injection**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for Diazepam (Diazemuls) 10mg/2ml emulsion for injection. This product is now out of stock long-term, with no anticipated resupply date. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diazepam-diazemuls-10mg-2ml-emulsion-for-injection/**

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Fluoxetine 30mg capsules (Advanz)**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification Update for Fluoxetine 30mg capsules (Advanz). Resupply of this product is now expected by the end of May 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules-advanz/**

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Oral Contraceptive tablets (various brands)**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification Update for Oral Contraceptive tablets (of various brands). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-oral-contraceptive-tablets-various-brands/**

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

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification Update for **Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets. Resupply of this product is now expected by the end of May 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-irbesartan-hydrochlorothiazide-150mg-12-5mg-tablets/**

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

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification Update for **Diamorphine hydrochloride powder for reconstitution and injection 5mg and 10mg ampoules. Resupply of this product is now expected week commencing 3rd May. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-hydrochloride-powder-for-reconstitution-and-injection-5mg-and-10mg-ampoules/**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall:** **Trimethoprim 200mg tablets (Ennogen)**

The Medicine and Health Regulatory Agency has issued a Class 2 Medicines Recall for **Trimethoprim 200mg tablets (Ennogen). Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-trimethoprim-200mg-tablets-ennogen/**

**Deadline Extension: Smartcard access to MYS portal now ending on Sunday 16th May**

Smartcard access to the [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/manage-your-service-mys) was due to end on [**Sunday 18th April 2021**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smartcard-access-to-mys-portal-coming-to-an-end/), however, the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) have now extended the period by which contractors can access MYS using Smartcards to **Sunday 16th May 2021**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/deadline-extension-smartcard-access-to-mys-portal-now-ending-on-sunday-16th-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.