**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 2nd May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Negotiations on CPCF arrangements for 2021/22 commence**

Formal tripartite negotiations on the arrangements for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) in 2021/22 have now begun. The negotiations are taking place between PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) supported by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/negotiations-on-cpcf-arrangements-for-2021-22-commence/**

**MHRA Drug Safety Update – April 2021**

A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update (Vol 14 Issue 8 March 2021) has been published. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-april-2021/**

**Share your views with NHS Test and Trace on the C-19 test distribution service**

NHS Test and Trace would like to hear feedback from community pharmacy teams delivering the COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service (Pharmacy Collect). Pharmacy teams are therefore encouraged to share their views in a short survey, which will take around 10 minutes to complete. **Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/share-your-views-with-nhs-test-trace-on-pharmacy-collect/**

**First mandated health campaign of 2021/22: COVID-19 Vaccinations**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and PSNC have agreed that contractors will be asked to participate in a COVID-19 vaccination campaign as the first mandated health campaign for 2021/22, which contractors must undertake, as part of their NHS contractual requirements. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/first-mandated-health-campaign-of-2021-22-covid-19-vac/**

**Data Security and Protection Toolkit: new PSNC guidance now available**

PSNC has published a suite of new guidance to assist community pharmacy contractors with completing the Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2020/21. The Toolkit, used to make a pharmacy’s information governance (IG) declaration, must be completed **by** **30th June 2021** but it is recommended that contractors do so as soon as possible. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/data-security-and-protection-toolkit-psnc-guidance-now-available/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Estradot 75 micrograms/24 hour patches**

The DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for**Estradot (estradiol hemihydrate) 75micrograms/24 hours patches. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estradot-estradiol-hemihydrate-75micrograms-24-hours-patches/**

**Medicine Supply Notification (MSN):** **Elleste Solo MX 40 and 80 transdermal patches**

**The DHSC has** issued a Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) for**Elleste Solo MX 40 and 80 transdermal patches. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-elleste-solo-mx-40-and-80-transdermal-patches/**

**New SSP issued for Estradot 75 micrograms patches**

In response to a significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Estradot® 75 microgram patches, a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued by DHSC. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-issued-for-estradot-75-micrograms-patches/**

**Correct submission of forms and items paid at the old charge rate**

Following the increase in NHS prescription charges to £9.35 from 1 April 2021, pharmacy contractors are reminded to complete the paid prescriptions section on their FP34C submission form correctly. This is to ensure that the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) can deduct the correct number of prescription charges at the old (£9.15) and new (£9.35) rates for any paid prescriptions submitted by your pharmacy. Failure to accurately submit information for paid prescriptions could result in incorrect charge deductions being made to your pharmacy's account. Read more here: **https://www.google.com/search?q=psnc+newsletter+archive&rlz=1C1CHBF\_en-GBGB942GB942&oq=PSNC+N&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j0l2j69i57j69i59j69i60l3.2047j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8**

**April 2021 Price Concessions: final update**

The DHSC has now granted its final additions to the list of price concessions for April 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/april-2021-price-concessions-final-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.