**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 9th May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information:** **Syonell 250mg & 500mg gastro-resistant tablets**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued Class 4 Medicines Defect Information for **Syonell 250mg & 500mg gastro-resistant tablets. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-syonell-250mg-500mg-gastro-resistant-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-syonell-250mg-500mg-gastro-resistant-tablets/)

**LPC News: Updated template PNA questionnaire 2021**

PSNC has updated its template questionnaire to help support the local development of Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/lpc-news-updated-template-pna-questionnaire-2021/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/lpc-news-updated-template-pna-questionnaire-2021/)

**SSP011 for Competact® 15mg/850mg tablets extended**

SSP011 for Competact® 15mg/850mg tablets was previously expected to expire on 7th May 2021 but the end date has been extended to 14th May 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp011-competact-15mg-850mg-tablets-extended/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp011-competact-15mg-850mg-tablets-extended/)

**April CPN magazine published**

The April 2021 edition of PSNC’s Community Pharmacy News (CPN) is now available. Read the April 2021 edition of CPN here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/april-cpn-magazine-published/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/april-cpn-magazine-published/)

**NHS Prescription Services “Hints and Tips” – Issue 43**

The latest edition of NHS Prescription Services quarterly newsletter, “Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors”, is now available. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-43/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-43/)

**Post-Payment Verification for the Pandemic Delivery Service**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has started undertaking a post-payment verification process for the Advanced Service component of the Pandemic Delivery Service. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/post-payment-verification-for-the-pandemic-delivery-service/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/post-payment-verification-for-the-pandemic-delivery-service/)

**Smartcard admin portal (CIS) upgrade**

The Care Identity Service (CIS) will shortly be moving to an online ‘cloud-based’ environment to improve system performance and user experience. NHS Digital has confirmed that the upgrade is scheduled to take place from 6.30pm on Friday 7th May 2021 through to 8.00pm on Monday 10th May 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smartcard-admin-portal-cis-upgrade/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smartcard-admin-portal-cis-upgrade/)

**RSG announces series of engagement events**

The community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG) has issued an update and announced a series of stakeholder engagement events as part of its remit to take forward work following recommendations made in the [**Independent Review of Community Pharmacy Contractor Representation and Support: Providing best value for contractors**](https://pharmacyreview175657019.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/independent-review-of-community-pharmacy-contractor-representation-and-support.pdf). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/rsg-announces-series-of-engagement-events/**

**FAQs on the HEE workforce survey**

The 2021 Health Education England (HEE) Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey commenced on 7th May 2021. HEE has compiled a list of FAQs about the survey. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/faqs-on-the-hee-workforce-survey/**

**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.