**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 16th May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Have you completed the DMS DoC?**

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are reminded that they must complete the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) Declaration of Competence (DoC) before providing DMS, which became an Essential service earlier this year. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-completed-the-dms-doc/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-completed-the-dms-doc/)

**Pharmacists asked to take part in Self Care Forum COVID-19 survey**

The Self Care Forum is inviting everyone involved in the delivery of healthcare throughout the COVID-19 pandemic including community pharmacy teams to complete a [**short questionnaire**](https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1AL3nq2UJDCWgjH). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacists-asked-to-take-part-in-self-care-forum-covid-19-survey/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacists-asked-to-take-part-in-self-care-forum-covid-19-survey/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Flixotide (fluticasone propionate) 100 microgram Accuhaler**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Flixotide® (fluticasone propionate) 100 microgram Accuhaler. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-flixotide-fluticasone-propionate-100-microgram-accuhaler/**

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

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets. Resupply of this product is now expected to be in early June 2021. Read more 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/)

**Sigma to provide COVID-19 tests as part of LFD distribution service**

NHS Test and Trace has confirmed that Sigma Pharmaceuticals has agreed to provide lateral flow device (LFD) test kits to community pharmacies as part of the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service (Pharmacy Collect). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/sigma-to-provide-covid-19-tests-as-part-of-lfd-distribution-service/**

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: VFEND (Voriconazole) 40mg/ml powder for oral suspension**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **VFEND (Voriconazole) 40mg/ml powder for oral suspension. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-vfend-voriconazole-40mg-ml-powder-for-oral-suspension/**

**Supply Disruption Alert: Repaglinide 1mg and 2mg tablets**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply disruption alert for Repaglinide 1mg and 2mg tablets. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-repaglinide-1mg-and-2mg-tablets/**

**End of Smartcard access to MYS portal**

Smartcard access to the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal expired on Sunday 16th May 2021 at 11.59pm. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-one-week-to-go-before-smartcard-access-to-mys-portal-ends/**

**Expiry of SSP011 for Competact 15mg/850mg tablets**

The Serious Shortage Protocol, **SSP011, for Competact 15mg/850mg tablets expired at 23.59pm on Friday 14 May 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp011-for-competact-15mg-850mg-tablets/**

**Briefing MPs on the COVID-19 LFD distribution service**

As part of PSNC’s ongoing work to keep MPs informed about the value of community pharmacies, we will soon be highlighting to them some key information about the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 LFD distribution service (or Pharmacy Collect). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/briefing-mps-on-the-c-19-lfd-distribution-service/**

**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.