**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 23rd May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Bricanyl Injection, 0.5 mg/ml solution for injection or infusion**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for: **Bricanyl Injection, 0.5 mg/ml solution for injection or infusion (PL 17901/0112). Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-bricanyl-injection-0-5-mg-ml-solution-for-injection-or-infusion/**

**Expiry of SSP009 for Fluoxetine 4omg capsules**

The Serious Shortage Protocol, **SSP009, for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules expired at 23.59pm on Monday 17 May 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp009-for-fluoxetine-40mg-capsules/**

**Further extension to SSP05 for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets**

SSP05 for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets was previously expected to expire on 17th May 2021 but the end date has been further extended to Friday 13th August 2021**.** Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp05-for-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets/**

**Further extension to SSP007 for Fluoxetine 30mg capsules**

SSP007 for Fluoxetine 30mg capsules was previously expected to expire on 17th May 2021 but the end date has been further extended to **Friday 13th August 2021. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp007-for-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp007-for-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules/)

**PSNC East Midlands and South Yorkshire Regional Representative Election**

PSNC will shortly begin formal processes to seek a new East Midlands and South Yorkshire Regional Representative following the resignation of Garry Myers from the Committee on the 17th of May 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-east-midlands-and-south-yorkshire-regional-representative-election/**

**May video update from PSNC’s CEO**

The PSNC CEO video update for May is now available to watch. In this video, Simon Dukes says that the negotiations on the CPCF will cover things that both PSNC and the NHS want pharmacy to do in the future. But none of this will be possible without a fair outcome on pharmacy’s COVID costs. Watch the update here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-video-update-from-psncs-ceo/**

**May 2021 Price Concessions – First Update**

On May 19th, the Department of Health and Social Care granted the first price concessions update for the month of May. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-2021-price-concessions-1st-update/**

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

Contractors who have signed up to provide the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service are reminded that they must record a range of information on the NHS Business Services Authority's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal **by close of business on the pharmacy’s last trading day of each week**, including the wholesaler supplying the tests and the quantity of cartons received. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-submitted-your-weekly-data-for-the-c-19-test-distribution-service-2/**

**Pharmacy services a ‘lifeline’ for people with lung conditions**

A survey of people living with lung disease found that 95% of respondents thought the support they accessed in community pharmacy was valuable, essential or something that they ‘could not live without’. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-services-a-lifeline-for-people-with-lung-conditions/**

**CPPE launches Fundamentals of respiratory therapeutics e-learning**

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a Fundamentals of respiratory therapeutics e-course, which aims to support pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to provide a person-centred approach to the overall healthcare of people living with respiratory disease. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cppe-launches-fundamentals-of-respiratory-therapeutics-e-learning/**

**MHRA Drug Safety Update May 2021**

The May 2021 MHRA [**Drug Safety Update (Vol 14 Issue 10)**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-safety-update-monthly-newsletter) has been published and includes articles on prescribing advice for patients who experience symptoms on switching between different levothyroxine products, and COVID-19 vaccines and medicines. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-may-2021/**

**Class 3 Medicines Recall: Carbimazole 10mg and 15mg tablets**

The MHRA has issued a class 3 medicines recall for **Carbimazole 10mg and 15mg tablets.**Healthcare professionals are advised to stop supplying the batches listed in the recall notice immediately and to quarantine all remaining stock and return it to the supplier using their approved process. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-3-medicines-recall-carbimazole-10mg-and-15mg-tablets-advanz-pharma/**

**Regulations Reminder (#1): Access to SCR**

PSNC has begun a series of reminders about changes to the pharmacy Terms of Service that took place in late 2020. Community pharmacy contractors are advised to review these reminders in preparation for completing the 2021/22 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) survey, which will include questions on the new Terms of Service.
First up is access to Summary Care Records (SCR). For this requirement, contractors need to ensure that staff working at their pharmacy can access NHS SCRs and that access is consistent and reliable during the pharmacy’s opening hours, in so far as is within the control of the contractor. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-1-access-to-scr/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-1-access-to-scr/)

**New prescribing advice if specific Levothyroxine product required by patient**

The May 2021[**MHRA Drug Safety Update**](https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/levothyroxine-new-prescribing-advice-for-patients-who-experience-symptoms-on-switching-between-different-levothyroxine-products) contains new prescribing advice for patients who experience symptoms when switching between Levothyroxine products. This recommends that, where a patient reports symptom, the prescriber should consider consistently prescribing a specific Levothyroxine product known to be well tolerated by the patient. Find out more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/levothyroxine-new-prescribing-advice-if-specific-product-required-by-patient/**

**Over a million more flu vaccinations delivered by community pharmacists during 2020/21**

Community pharmacy teams have administered over a million more flu vaccinations under the national Flu Vaccination Service during 2020/21 than the previous year – a 62% increase. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-a-million-more-flu-vaccinations-administered-by-community-pharmacists-during-2020-21/**

**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.