**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 30th May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**PSNC and MPs continue to press on COVID-19 loans and sustainable funding**

PSNC is continuing work to highlight the value that community pharmacies have delivered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for sustainable funding for the sector. During the weekend commencing Saturday 22nd May 2021, more than thirty politicians from across the political parties called on the Secretary of State for Health, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to urgently write off the £370m in emergency COVID-19 loans granted to pharmacies last year and ensure sustainable funding for the sector. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-and-mps-continue-to-press-on-c-19-loans-and-sustainable-funding/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-and-mps-continue-to-press-on-c-19-loans-and-sustainable-funding/)

**Transformation leadership job opportunity at PSNC**

PSNC is searching for an experienced Programme Manager to help with transforming the future of NHS community pharmacy representation and support. This role will report to James Wood, who is PSNC Director of Contractor & LPC Support and Secretary to the community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/transformation-leadership-job-opportunity-at-psnc/**

**Regs Reminder #2: Updating NHS website profiles**

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 survey, which will include questions on the new Terms of Service. On the 25th of May, PSNC published a reminder about updating NHS website profiles. For this requirement, contractors must ensure that there is a comprehensive and accurate profile for their pharmacy on the NHS website ([**www.nhs.uk**](http://www.nhs.uk/)). Contractors must also ensure they verify and, if necessary, update their profile information at least once quarterly. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-2-updating-nhs-website-profiles/**

**More than three quarters of pharmacy organizations register for Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC)**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has reported that more than three quarters of pharmacy organisations have now registered to access RTEC, which saves staff time and reduces the use of paper. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/more-than-three-quarters-of-pharmacy-orgs-register-for-rtec/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/more-than-three-quarters-of-pharmacy-orgs-register-for-rtec/)

**CPAF screening process to begin next month**

The 2021/22 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire will be available for completion from Monday the 28th of June 2021 until Friday the 24th of July 2021. Whilst this part of NHS England and NHS Improvement’s (NHSE&I) contract monitoring process did not run in 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will run as normal for this financial year and has now become a mandatory requirement for all community pharmacy contractors. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpaf-screening-process-to-begin-next-month/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpaf-screening-process-to-begin-next-month/)

**Pharmacy IT infrastructure – share your feedback**

PSNC, working with the Community Pharmacy IT Group ([**CP ITG**](https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-it/policy-the-nhs-and-it/community-pharmacy-it-group-cpitg/)), has launched a survey to gather feedback about the community pharmacy IT infrastructure arrangements. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-it-infrastructure-arrangements-share-your-feedback/**

**Have you completed the Health Education England (HEE) workforce survey?**

The 2021 HEE Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey commenced earlier this month. PSNC encourages all pharmacy contractors to participate in this voluntary 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 here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-completed-the-hee-workforce-survey/**

**Regs Reminder #3: NHSmail**

Contractors are reminded that they must have a premise specific NHSmail account (with an email address using the following naming convention: ‘pharmacy.ODScode@nhs.net’), which their staff can use to send and receive NHSmail. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-3-nhsmail/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-3-nhsmail/)

**Regs Reminder #4: Updating Dos Profiles**

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded of the Terms of Service requirement to ensure they verify and, where necessary, update the information contained in their Directory of Services (DoS) profile at least once each quarter of the financial year. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-4-updating-dos-profiles/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-4-updating-dos-profiles/)

**Service case study: The Midlands Community Pharmacy Extended Care Service**

NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) Midlands launched a Community Pharmacy Extended Care Service in December 2020. This includes a suite of patient group directions (PGDs) that allow pharmacists to treat patients presenting with certain conditions that otherwise would have to have been seen by prescribers in a general practice. It is the first locally commissioned service of this type to cover such a wide geographical area. So far, 924 pharmacies across the Midlands have signed up to provide the first tier of the service, which includes a service to treat simple Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) in females and a service to treat acute bacterial conjunctivitis in patients aged 3 months to 2 years. Read more about this service case study here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/service-case-study-the-midlands-community-pharmacy-extended-care-service/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/service-case-study-the-midlands-community-pharmacy-extended-care-service/)

**PSNC elections postponed pending outcomes of independent review**

Elections for PSNC’s 13 independent contractor Regional Representatives have been postponed by one year and will now take place in time for April 2023.  This is to give time for the **[RSG](https://pharmacy-review.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)** to complete its important work reviewing contractor representation and support, including the structure of both PSNC and the LPCs. PSNC has also advised LPCs who are following the PSNC four-yearly election cycle to consider postponing their elections until 2023 and is offering support to LPCs to help them to do this.  The PSNC decision follows preliminary advice from the RSG that it hopes to propose changes for contractors to vote on by the end of this year. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-elections-postponed-pending-outcomes-of-independent-review/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-elections-postponed-pending-outcomes-of-independent-review/)

**Pharmacies in England carry out 58 million consultations a year**

PSNC has published the findings of an audit of almost 6,000 community pharmacies held earlier this year, alongside a series of resources to promote the value of pharmacy advice. According to the findings of PSNC's 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit, more than 1.1 million informal consultations a week – or 58 million a year – are conducted by community pharmacy teams in England. Read more about the audit results here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacies-in-england-carry-out-58-million-consultations-a-year/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacies-in-england-carry-out-58-million-consultations-a-year/)

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Fluoxetine 30mg capsules**

The resupply date of Fluoxetine 30mg capsules is yet to be confirmed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules-advanz/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules-advanz/)

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Flixotide 100 microgram Accuhaler**

DHSC has confirmed resupply of this product in the week commencing 28th June 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-flixotide-fluticasone-propionate-100-microgram-accuhaler/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-flixotide-fluticasone-propionate-100-microgram-accuhaler/)

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

**DHSC has confirmed the following:**

* **Diamorphine hydrochloride powder for reconstitution and injection 5mg ampoules will be** available in the first week of June 2021.
* **Diamorphine hydrochloride powder for reconstitution and injection 10mg ampoules will be out of stock f**rom the week commencing 31st May until late June 2021.

Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-hydrochloride-powder-for-reconstitution-and-injection-5mg-and-10mg-ampoules/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Alliance Calcium Syrup**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for Alliance Calcium Syrup (calcium gluconate 544mg/5ml calcium lactate 276mg/5ml oral solution). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-alliance-calcium-syrup-calcium-gluconate-544mg-5ml-calcium-lactate-276mg-5ml-oral-solution/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-alliance-calcium-syrup-calcium-gluconate-544mg-5ml-calcium-lactate-276mg-5ml-oral-solution/)

**Submitting your COVID-19 test distribution service data each week**

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 NHSBSA’s [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login) **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/reminder-submitting-your-c-19-test-distribution-service-data-each-week/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-submitting-your-c-19-test-distribution-service-data-each-week/)

**May 2021 Price Concessions: Final Update**

DHSC has granted the final list of price concessions for May 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-2021-price-concessions-final-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-2021-price-concessions-final-update/)

**Regs Reminder #5: Health Campaigns**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) can now ask for additional information in relation to health campaigns. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-5-health-campaigns/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-5-health-campaigns/)

**Regs Reminder #6: Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) Access**

Contractors are reminded of the need to ensure constant and reliable access to the EPS at the pharmacy premises during opening hours. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-6-eps-access/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-6-eps-access/)

**Further extension to SSP012 for Estradot 75 micrograms patches**

DHSC has announced an extension to the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Estradot 75 micrograms patches (SSP012). This SSP is now due to expire on **Friday 11th June 2021**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp012-for-estradot-75-micrograms-patches/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp012-for-estradot-75-micrograms-patches/)

**New SSP endorsement introduced**

From 1st June 2021, the DHSC has approved the use of a new endorsement to claim for any supplies made in accordance with an SSP.  **The new endorsement uses the code ‘SSP’ followed by the three-digit reference number applicable to the SSP for example, SSP007 for Fluoxetine 30mg capsules would be endorsed as ‘SSP 007’**. Read more here:[**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-endorsement-introduced/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-endorsement-introduced/)

**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.