**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 20th June*

**Last week’s news stories:**

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

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Medicine Supply Notification update for Diamorphine hydrochloride powder for reconstitution and injection 5mg and 10mg ampoules. 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: Dalacin (Clindamycin) 2% vaginal cream**

The DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for Dalacin (Clindamycin) 2% vaginal cream. Read more about this Medicine Supply Notification here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dalacin-clindamycin-2-vaginal-cream/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Fluoxetine (Olena) 20mg dispersible sugar free tablets**

The DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for Fluoxetine (Olena) 20mg dispersible sugar free tablets. Read more about this Medicine Supply Notification here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluoxetine-olena-20mg-dispersible-sugar-free-tablets/**

**Flu Vaccination: confirmation of training requirements for 2021/22**

The usual training requirements for pharmacists providing the national community pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service are being reinstated for the 2021/22 season. This has been confirmed to PSNC by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and Public Health England. This means that pharmacists due to undertake their refresher face-to-face training for both injection technique and basic life support should do so this year. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-confirmation-of-training-requirements-for-2021-22/**

**Last call for contractors to complete the HEE workforce survey**

Contractors were encouraged to complete the Health Education England (HEE) Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey before the survey closed on Friday 18th June.

**Class 1 Medicines Recall for Co-codamol 30/500 effervescent tablets**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 1 medicines recall for **Co-codamol 30/500 Effervescent Tablets.**Healthcare professionals are advised to stop supplying the batch listed in the recall notice immediately and contact all patients who have been dispensed the impacted batch and ask them to urgently return this stock to the pharmacy for replacement. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/national-patient-safety-alert-class-1-medicines-recall-for-co-codamol-30-500-effervescent-tablets-zentiva/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Kolanticon gel**

The DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Kolanticon gel. Read more about this Medicine Supply Notification here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-kolanticon-gel-2-5mg-dicycloverine-hydrochloride-200mg-aluminium-hydroxide-100mg-light-magnesium-oxide-20mg-simethicone-per-5ml/**

**Class 2 Medicines Recall: Irbesartan and Losartan-containing products**

The MHRA has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for **Irbesartan-containing and Losartan-containing products**. Bristol Laboratories Limited, Brown & Burk UK Ltd and Teva UK Ltd are recalling a number of product batches​​ as a precautionary measure due to contamination with an impurity that has a mutagenic potential. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-irbesartan-and-losartan-containing-products/**

**Research finds Pharmacies can play a ‘key clinical role’ in COVID-19 vaccinations**

New research published in BMJ Open shows that community pharmacists, as a ‘skilled clinical workforce', could perform a key role in future COVID-19 vaccination programmes. A study led by Aston University found that because of the convenience of high street pharmacies and the fact they are trusted by those they serve, community pharmacy is ideally suited to addressing vaccine hesitancy in ‘hard to reach' communities. The report makes a series of recommendations, including calling on decision-makers to endorse and provide support for a clearly defined public health role for community pharmacy. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/research-finds-pharmacies-can-play-a-key-clinical-role-in-c-19-vacs/**

**June 2021 Price Concessions: First Update**

The DHSC has granted an initial list of price concessions for June 2021. Read more here**:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/june-2021-price-concessions-1st-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/june-2021-price-concessions-1st-update/)

**CPAF screening process starts soon**

As [PSNC informed contractors in May 2021](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpaf-screening-process-to-begin-next-month/), the 2021/22 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire will soon be available for completion. Community pharmacy contractors are required to complete the questionnaire between **Monday 28th June 2021 and midnight on Saturday 24th July 2021** via the Manage Your Service (MYS) Portal. Pharmacies will receive instructions on how to complete the screening questionnaire from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) by email or from their own Head Office in the week commencing 21st June 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpaf-screening-process-starts-soon/**

**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, face coverings 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.