**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 27th June*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Kent LPC secures additional funding for GP CPCS implementation**

Kent LPC has secured significant additional local funding to support the implementation of the GP Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (GP CPCS) across the Kent and Medway area. GP CPCS implementation is a priority on the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) agenda and regular meetings between them, the LPC, and other members of primary care helped kickstart the conversation about the possibility of accelerating deployment through additional local funding. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/kent-lpc-secures-additional-funding-for-gp-cpcs-implementation/**

**It group progresses workstreams at its quarterly meeting**

The Community Pharmacy IT Group (CP ITG), which brings together pharmacy representatives with IT policy makers and system suppliers, met earlier this month to discuss various developments in the digital healthcare landscape. Key topics of discussion included recent improvements to the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), the local digital priorities of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and the Care Identity Service 2 (CIS2) project. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/it-group-progresses-workstreams-at-its-quarterly-meeting/**

**Take part in NHS website pharmacy profile research**

NHS Digital is inviting pharmacy teams to feed into its work to update the NHS website pharmacy profile editor. Participants will take part in short research interviews by video call at a mutually convenient time. To volunteer to take part in one of these interviews or for more information, please contact **it@psnc.org.uk**, who can provide additional information or connect you to the NHS website research team. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/take-part-in-nhs-website-pharmacy-profile-research/**

**GP CPCS engagement and setup payment deadline**

Community pharmacy contractors must complete the activities listed in Annex F of the [**Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) service specification**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/advanced-service-specification-nhs-community-pharmacist-consultation-service/) by 30th June 2021 to be eligible to claim the £300 engagement and set up payment for GP CPCS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/one-week-left-to-complete-activities-for-claiming-gp-cpcs-engagement-and-set-up-payment/**

**June video update from PSNC’s CEO**

In his latest video update, PSNC's CEO Simon Dukes encourages community pharmacy contractors to get engaged with the work of the Pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG) as it begins to map out new structures and ways of working for PSNC and the LPCs. Watch the video update here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/june-video-update-from-psncs-ceo/**

**CPCS IT changes from 1st October**

From October 1st 2021 contractors providing the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) need to procure their own IT support from the system suppliers offering CPCS functionality. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/action-required-cpcs-it-changes-from-1st-october/**

**Statutory requirements for staff to report test results from LFDs**

Community pharmacy teams are reminded of the need to report all their own COVID-19 test results (whether negative, void or positive) from Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) online. Whilst using LFDs is voluntary, those pharmacy staff who choose to use them to test for COVID-19 must report their results on the [**GOV.UK website**](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) each time they do a test as this is a statutory notifiable disease reporting requirement. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-statutory-requirement-for-staff-to-report-test-results-from-lfds/**

**Updating NHS website/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 NHS website profile **and** their Directory of Services (DoS) profile at least once each quarter of the financial year. For the current financial quarter, the deadline for completing this is **30th June 2021**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/deadline-approaches-updating-nhs-website-dos-profiles/**

**EPS scripts now over 95% of total items**

During the [**last meeting**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/it-group-progresses-workstreams-at-its-quarterly-meeting/) of 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/)), the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) confirmed that electronic prescriptions sent via the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) now represent more than 95% of all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacies in England. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/eps-scripts-now-over-95-of-total-items/**

**Supply disruption alert: Champix 0.5mg and 1mg tablets**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply disruption alert for**Champix (varenicline) 0.5mg and 1mg tablets**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-affecting-champix-varenicline-tablets-pfizer/**

**Supply disruption alert: Dexamethasone 0.1% 5ml eyedrops**

The DHSC has issued a medicine supply disruption alert for**Dexamethasone 0.1% (Maxidex) 5ml eye drops. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-dexamethasone-0-1-maxidex-5ml-eye-drops/**

**Share your views on changes to the NHS Service Finder tool**

NHS Digital is planning to make improvements to the [**NHS Service Finder**](https://finder.directoryofservices.nhs.uk/#/login) tool and would like to invite pharmacy teams to participate with its user research. Participants will take part in a short video call (of approximately 30-40 minutes), during which they will test a prototype version of the Service Finder tool and perform test searches that will be given to them on the day. These research calls will take place between the **5th and 19th July 2021** and participants are welcome from across the pharmacy sector, including those who rarely adopt IT early. Please contact **it@psnc.org.uk** to volunteer to take part in this research. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/share-your-views-on-changes-to-the-nhs-service-finder-tool/**

**Process announced for East Midlands and South Yorkshire Regional Representative election**

The process to elect a new PSNC Regional Representative for the East Midlands and South Yorkshire region is now underway. The first stage is a call for expressions of interest between 6th and 21st July 2021. PSNC has written a briefing to explain the role of regional representative, the election process, actions required for those seeking to stand for election and timescales. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/process-announced-for-east-midlands-and-south-yorkshire-regional-representative-election/**

**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.