**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 6th June*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Regs reminder (#7) – Pandemic Treatment Protocol**

PSNC is continuing its series of reminders about changes to the pharmacy Terms of Service that took place in late 2020. We hope these will help contractors and their teams to prepare for the 2021/22 contract monitoring process. For this requirement, pharmacies must supply a prescription only medicine for the prevention or treatment of a disease that is, or is anticipated to be imminently, pandemic. Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-7-pandemic-treatment-protocol/**

**Regs reminder (#8) – Flexible provision of flu or Coronavirus vaccinations**

Enabling a pharmacy contractor to apply to NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) during or in anticipation of a pandemic to limit the pharmaceutical services they provide to relevant immunisation services only. Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-8-flexible-provision-of-flu-or-coronavirus-vaccinations/**

**Regs reminder (#9) – CAS alert sign-up**

Contractors must register their pharmacy’s shared NHSmail account to receive [**Central Alerting System**](https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/Home.aspx) (CAS) alerts direct from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Read the full regs reminder here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-9-cas-alert-sign-up/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-9-cas-alert-sign-up/)

**Regs reminder (#10) – Commencement notices and contractors entering administration**

commencement notices for new pharmacies must now be sent to NHSE&I no fewer than 30 days in advance, and a contractor must notify NHSE&I if their company enters administration. Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-10-commencement-notices-and-contractors-entering-administration/**

**Regs reminder (#11) – NHSE&I inspections and access to electronic information**

Requiring contractors to provide information that could be requested at an inspection and a completed Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) questionnaire to NHSE&I electronically. Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-11-nhsei-inspections-and-access-to-electronic-information/**

**Regs reminder (#12) – Facilitating remote access to pharmacy services**

Contractors must, to a reasonable extent, facilitate remote access to the full range of NHS pharmacy services provided at or from their premises. Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-12-facilitating-remote-access-to-pharmacy-services/**

**Pharmacy Earlier Payment Scheme Update**

The ending of the contract between Taulia and the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has been [**announced**](https://customers.taulia.com/nhs-bsa/). While NHSBSA continues to cover payments to existing members of the Pharmacy Earlier Payment Scheme (PEPS), that announcement also stated that the future of PEPS is now under consideration. In the meantime, no new pharmacies will be added to the scheme. As [**we alerted contractors in March**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/peps-payments/), PSNC is concerned about this situation and is in talks with the Department of Health Social Care (DHSC) about the future of PEPS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-earlier-payment-scheme-update/**

**Regs reminder (#13) – HLP requirements**

All pharmacies are required to meet the Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) requirements which are detailed in the [**NHSE&I regulations guidance**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/guidance-on-the-national-health-service-charges-and-pharmaceutical-and-local-pharmaceutical-services-amendment-regulations-2020/). Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-13-hlp-requirements/**

**Regs reminder (#14) – Consultation rooms and remote consultations**

Almost all pharmacies are required to have a consultation room and Distance Selling Pharmacies (DSPs) must ensure that there are arrangements in place which enable staff and patients to communicate confidentially by telephone or another live audio link **and** a live video link. Read the full regs reminder here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regs-reminder-14-consultation-rooms-and-remote-consultations/**

**Workforce Development Group Publish Review**

The [**Community Pharmacy Workforce Development Group**](https://communitypharmacyworkforce.com/) (CPWDG) – made up of representatives from the Company Chemists’ Association, the National Pharmacy Association and the Association of Independent Pharmacy Multiples – has published a [**Review of the Community Pharmacy Workforce**](https://communitypharmacyworkforce.com/what-do-we-want/), which draws on the professional experiences of the group’s constituent members, publicly available data and a survey conducted by the Group in July 2020 to which 40% of community pharmacies in England responded. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/workforce-development-group-publish-review/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/workforce-development-group-publish-review/)

**Last edition of CPN magazine published**

In the final edition of Community Pharmacy News (CPN), we look at the results of PSNC's 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit, the return of the CPAF process for 2021/22 and prescription returns. Read the last issue of CPN here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/last-edition-of-cpn-magazine/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/last-edition-of-cpn-magazine/)

**Do not forget to submit your weekly COVID-19 test service data**

Pharmacies participating in the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service must collate certain information from people collecting test kits and then enter this data into the NHSBSA’s [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login)  **by the close of business on the pharmacy’s last trading day of the week**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dont-forget-to-submit-your-c-19-test-service-data-this-week/**

**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.