**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 18th July*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group virtual conference now on-demand**

A recording of the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group virtual conference, which was held on 30th June, is now available to watch online. The conference examined key learnings and collaborative work from the Coronavirus pandemic, including how community pharmacies adapted to support patient safety and action to support colleagues' wellbeing. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/community-pharmacy-patient-safety-group-virtual-conference-now-on-demand/**

**MHRA Class 4 Notice: Sevredol 10mg and 20mg tablets**

Napp Pharmaceuticals Limited notified pharmacy teams of an error regarding specific batches of **Sevredol 10mg and 20mg tablets**, sold and distributed in the UK. This error relates to safety information missing from the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) inside the affected batches. There is no risk to product quality due to this issue, and pharmacy teams are advised to exercise caution when dispensing the product and provide an updated PIL where possible. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-sevredol-10mg-20mg-tablets/**

**Storage of LFD test kits as the weather heats up**

With much of the country seeing considerably high temperatures, community pharmacy contractors participating in the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service (Pharmacy Collect) are reminded that test kits should be stored in a cool area (between 2°C and 30°C), away from direct sunlight, to preserve their integrity. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/storage-of-lfd-test-kits-as-the-weather-heats-up/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Gentisone HC ear drops**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for **Gentisone HC® (Gentamicin 0.3% w/v and Hydrocortisone acetate 1% w/v) Ear Drops. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-gentisone-hc-gentamicin-0-3-w-v-and-hydrocortisone-acetate-1-w-v-ear-drops/**

**CPAF screening deadline approaching**

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded that they have until **midnight on Saturday 24th July 2021** to complete the Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire for each of their NHS pharmacies. Approximately 5,700 pharmacies have already done so. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/2-weeks-left-to-complete-cpaf-2021-22-around-half-of-pharmacies-have-completed/**

**New patient-facing pharmacy profiles on the NHS website**

The NHS website has launched new public-facing pharmacy profiles. These profiles aim to better meet patient’s needs, feature improved support for mobile devices and satisfy modern accessibility standards. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-patient-facing-pharmacy-profiles-on-the-nhs-website/**

**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/**

**RSG launches round of focus-groups**

The Review Steering Group (RSG) is developing options for how NHS Community Pharmacy representation and support *could* operate in the future and wants to hear your views on initial options. Contractors, LPCs, PSNC Members and contractor trade body representatives are being invited to attend a series of focus groups and workshops at which they will help to further develop and evolve the potential options. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/rsg-launches-round-of-focus-groups/**

**Face coverings and PPE in pharmacies – advice from 19th July**

Most legal restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic will be removed from 19th July 2021. Although face coverings and social distancing will be optional from this date, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has highlighted that current Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidance remains in place, meaning that face coverings should be used by patients (if tolerated) and visitors when entering a care setting, including community pharmacies and in areas where triaging for COVID-19 is not possible. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/face-coverings-and-ppe-in-pharmacies-advice-from-19th-july/**

**CPCS IT supplier webinar for contractors**

NHSE&I has opened registrations for an IT supplier showcase on **Thursday 22nd July 2021, 7-8.30pm**, to provide community pharmacy contractors and LPCs with the opportunity to hear from the IT suppliers that plan to align with the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT standards and deliver CPCS functionality. From **1st October 2021**, contractors must choose their CPCS IT solutions from one of those offered by the four validated suppliers: Sonar Informatics, PharmOutcomes, Positive Solutions and Cegedim. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-supplier-webinar-for-contractors/**

**July 2021 Price Concessions first Update**

DHSC has granted the initial list of price concessions for July 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/july-2021-price-concessions-1st-update/**

**NHSE&I publish details of COVID-19 vaccine booster programme**

Following the publication by NHSE&I of a [**letter setting out early guidance for the NHS**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/covid-19-vaccination-autumn-winter-phase-3-planning/) on planning for a COVID-19 vaccine booster programme – referred to as phase 3 of the vaccination programme – full information on how pharmacy contractors can apply to participate in the programme has now been published. Expressions of interest need to be **submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 28th July 2021**. Contractors already providing the COVID-19 vaccination service for phases 1 and 2 will also be required to express an interest in phase 3 following the same process. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-publish-details-of-c-19-vac-booster-programme/**

**Health bodies call for primary care to be recognized in new Integrated Care Systems**

PSNC and organisations representing the dentistry, optometry and audiology sectors have warned that the government’s Health and Care Bill – which will make Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) legal entities – risks the under-representation of wider primary care sectors on the ICS boards, which are to be handed responsibility for commissioning decisions. PSNC has, therefore, joined other healthcare bodies in calling for primary care professionals to be properly recognised within the new ICSs. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/health-bodies-call-for-primary-care-to-be-recognised-in-new-integrated-care-systems/**

**COVID-19 Costs: webinar now on-demand**

PSNC’s first COVID-19 Cost Claims Workshop for community pharmacy contractors is now available to watch on-demand. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-costs-webinar-now-on-demand/**

**July 2021 Price Concessions second update**

DHSC has granted the second list of price concessions for July 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/july-2021-price-concessions-2nd-update/**

**Public Affairs job opportunity at PSNC**

PSNC is looking for a **Public Affairs and Policy Manager** to lead an advocacy programme. The post-holder will have a brief to implement a plan to build support for community pharmacies across Parliament and work to ensure that community pharmacy is presenting a unified voice to the NHS and Government. We are keen to hear from candidates with experience of policy development and who will be confident and influential acting as an external spokesperson for community pharmacy. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/public-affairs-job-opportunity-at-psnc/**

**Staying healthy in the heat – advice for patients**

During this heatwave, the public may turn to community pharmacy teams for advice about staying well during the hot weather or to seek assistance when feeling unwell because of the heat. PSNC has previously developed a summary infographic which may be used by community pharmacy teams to communicate relevant messages contained in the Heatwave Plan for England and the NHS website guidance on how to cope in hot weather. Public health advice remains the same this year, despite the COVID-19 outbreak. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/staying-healthy-in-the-heat-advice-for-patients/**

**Further details on the 2021/22 flu vaccine programme announced**

Further to the updated NHSE&I flu letter published on 1st April 2021, the DHSC, Public Health England (PHE) and NHSE&I have jointly published a second letter to provide further information on the national flu immunisation programme for 2021/22. The letter highlights the risk of a lower level of population immunity against influenza because of non-pharmaceutical intervention measures taken to protect the population in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions lift and the population returns to pre-pandemic norms of social mixing and social contact, the letter draws attention to how this could result in the 2021/2022 winter having co-circulation of seasonal influenza virus (and other respiratory viruses) and COVID-19. With modelling suggesting the influenza impact could be up to 50% larger than that typically seen, it reinforces the message that the vaccination programme will be essential to reduce pressure on the health and social care system this winter. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-details-on-the-2021-22-flu-vac-programme-announced/**

**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.