**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 25th July*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Amoxicillin 500 mg/ 5 ml Powder for oral suspension**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 4 Medicines Defect Information alert for **Amoxicillin 500 mg / 5 ml Powder for oral suspension. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-amoxicillin-500mg-5ml-powder-for-oral-suspension/**

**CPCS IT supplier webinar for contractors**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) held an IT supplier showcase on **Thursday 22nd July 2021**, to provide community pharmacy contractors and LPCs with the opportunity to hear from the IT suppliers that plan to deliver CPCS IT solutions. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/register-now-for-cpcs-it-supplier-webinar-for-contractors/**

**Support development of weight management referral tool**

Pharmacy contractors are invited to participate in a focus group meeting on **Monday 26th July 10.00am**, to support research into the development of an online interface which could enable pharmacies to pilot referring patients onto a digital weight management programme. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/share-your-views-pharmacy-weight-management-referral-digital-tool/**

**Frontline healthcare staff may be able to avoid self-isolation**

On Monday 19th July, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced that frontline NHS workers who have been told to self-isolate would be allowed to continue to go to work under certain circumstances. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/frontline-healthcare-staff-may-be-able-to-avoid-self-isolation/**

**PSNC CEO Simon Dukes steps down**

PSNC is seeking a new Chief Executive to lead the organisation from October 2021, following the resignation of Simon Dukes. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-ceo-simon-dukes-steps-down/**

**Arrangements for primary care from 19th July 2021**

Following England’s move to step 4 of the Government’s COVID-19 response on 19th July 2021, NHSE&I issued a letter to all primary care contractors outlining their continuing expectations across primary care in relation to access, infection prevention and control, and continuing contractual arrangements. The NHSE&I letter notes that until further notice, the [**existing COVID-19 Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidance**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control) continues to apply in healthcare settings and that all primary care contractors, including community pharmacies, should continue to follow this guidance. The letter also notes that community pharmacies need to fulfil all aspects of their terms of service for 2021/22. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-guidance-arrangements-for-primary-care-from-19th-july-2021/**

**Medicine Supply Notification for Diamorphine hydrochloride powder**

**DHSC has updated the details of the Medicine Supply Notification 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: Locorten Vioform eardrops solution**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Locorten Vioform** **(flumetasone/clioquinol) 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops solution. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-locorten-vioform-flumetasone-clioquinol-0-02-w-v-1-w-v-ear-drops-solution/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Catapres 100mcg tablets**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Catapres (Clonidine) 100mcg tablets**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-catapres-clonidine-100microgram-tablets/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Nexium 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Nexium (esomeprazole) 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-nexium-esomeprazole-10mg-gastro-resistant-granules-sachets/**

**CPAF screening deadline**

The deadline for contractors to complete the Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire was **24th July 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/last-3-days-to-complete-this-years-cpaf-screening-questions/**

**NHSE&I confirm intention to delegate pharmacy commissioning to ICS**

In a [**letter issued to the leads of Integrated Care Systems**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/publication/intention-to-delegate-commissioning-functions-to-integrated-care-systems-july-2021/) (ICS), NHSE&I confirmed their plans to delegate the responsibility for the commissioning of primary care services, including pharmaceutical services, to ICS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-confirm-intention-to-delegate-pharmacy-commissioning-to-ics/**

**Have you submitted your weekly C-19 test distribution service data?**

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 NHS Business Services Authority's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal **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/have-you-submitted-your-c-19-test-distribution-service-weekly-data/**

**PSNC launches Value of Pharmacy Animation**

PSNC has launched a video animation showcasing the important work that community pharmacies do and explaining how, with sustainable funding and ongoing support from Government, their role could be developed further. The animation has been developed to support PSNC’s conversations with external audiences, to help raise awareness of the value of pharmacy services, and how patients and the NHS might be impacted if they were no longer there. It describes the importance of pharmacy advice and the potential for pharmacy teams to do more, whilst also highlighting the pressures caused by COVID-19 and the sector’s need for fair funding. Watch the animation here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-launches-value-of-pharmacy-animation/**

**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.