**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 1st August*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Reminder: Flu Vaccination Service training requirements**

**The** normal​ training requirements for pharmacists providing the Flu Vaccination Service [**are being reinstated for the 2021/22 season**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-confirmation-of-training-requirements-for-2021-22/). This means that pharmacists providing the Flu Vaccination Service must have attended face-to-face training for both injection technique and basic life support (including administration of adrenaline for anaphylaxis training) at least once in the last **three** years. In addition to this face-to-face training, pharmacists must have completed and signed the [**Vaccination Services Declaration of Competence**](https://www.cppe.ac.uk/services/declaration-of-competence) (DoC) within the last **two** years. There is also an expectation for pharmacists to undertake annual update training each year to ensure their knowledge stays up to date with changes in practice and guidance. This may involve self-directed learning or online training. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-flu-vaccination-service-training-requirements/**

**Expiry of SSP007 for Fluoxetine 30mg capsules**

The Serious Shortage Protocol **(SSP007)**for **Fluoxetine 30mg capsules expired at 23.59pm on Wednesday 28th July 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp007-for-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules/**

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup**

Community pharmacy teams should note that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued an update to the Medicine Supply Notification for **Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup. Resupply of this product is now expected in mid-September 2021. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-trifluoperazine-1mg-5ml-syrup-advanz-pharma/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Clexane pre-filled syringes**

**DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for Clexane pre-filled syringes. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-clexane-enoxaparin-pre-filled-syringes/**

**Update on ordering tests for the COVID-19 distribution service**

Community pharmacy contractors ordering lateral flow device (LFD) test kits as part of the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service (Pharmacy Collect) will start to receive a different brand of test kits (Acon Flowflex) from Alliance Healthcare, once existing stock of the Innova test kits has been distributed. The new (Acon Flowflex) test kits only contain a nasal swab and provide a test result within 15 instead of 30 minutes. It is therefore important to continue to advise patients to follow the instructions on how to use the tests kits contained within the box. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-test-distribution-service-update-on-ordering-tests/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-test-distribution-service-update-on-ordering-tests/)

**Dispensing Controlled Drugs Webinar now on-demand**

PSNC’s Dispensing Controlled Drugs (CDs) webinar for community pharmacy teams is now available to watch on-demand. Watch the webinar here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dispensing-controlled-drugs-webinar-now-on-demand/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dispensing-controlled-drugs-webinar-now-on-demand/)

**COVID-19 costs claims deadline approaching**

Community pharmacy contractors are running out of time to claim for the extra costs they incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the [**deal reached between PSNC and HM Government**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-costs-psnc-reaches-deal-with-hm-government/), contractors can claim for specific categories of COVID-19 related costs incurred between 1st March 2020 and 31st March 2021for the delivery of NHS pharmaceutical services. These cost claims must be made between **5th July and 15th August 2021** using an agreed claim form provided by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), and payments will be made on 1st October 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-costs-less-than-three-weeks-to-claim/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-costs-less-than-three-weeks-to-claim/)

**Contractor Notice: SSP endorsement errors**

NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has identified several EPS claim messages for SSPs which did not meet the requirements for a valid SSP claim introduced in June 2021. PSNC has worked with the NHSBSA to understand how and why these errors are occurring and, together, we have produced guidance to help contractors. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp-endorsement-errors-2/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp-endorsement-errors-2/)

**Drug Tariff Watch – August 2021**

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply Team has published the August 2021 Drug Tariff Watch, which includes the usual summary of additions, deletions, and category and price changes. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-august-2021/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-august-2021/)

**Single Activity Fee to increase to £1.29 from August 1st**

To ensure delivery of £1.792bn in fees and allowances in the 2021/22 financial year, the value of the Single Activity Fee increased to £1.29 from **1st August 2021**. PSNC agreed the increase based on our analysis of funding delivery and the latest projections for the year. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/single-activity-fee-to-increase-to-1-29-from-1st-august/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/single-activity-fee-to-increase-to-1-29-from-1st-august/)

**Supply Disruption Alert: Tinzaparin sodium pre-filled syringes**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply disruption alert for **Tinzaparin sodium (10,000 IU/ml) 3,500 units in 0.35 ml and 4,500 units in 0.45 ml** **pre-filled syringes. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-tinzaparin-sodium-10000-iu-ml-3500-units-in-0-35-ml-and-4500-units-in-0-45-ml-pre-filled-syringes/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-tinzaparin-sodium-10000-iu-ml-3500-units-in-0-35-ml-and-4500-units-in-0-45-ml-pre-filled-syringes/)

**Amanda Pritchard appointed Chief Executive of NHS England**

NHS England's current Chief Operating Officer Amanda Pritchard has been appointed to replace Sir Simon Stevens as Chief Executive. his new appointment comes at a crucial time for the NHS, which is dealing with the ongoing pandemic recovery and planned reforms to its structure through the establishment of Integrated Care Systems (ICS). PSNC is looking forward to working with the new Chief Executive to develop the community pharmacy service and ensure the sector’s important role in supporting the pandemic recovery is recognized. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/amanda-pritchard-appointed-chief-executive-of-nhs-england/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/amanda-pritchard-appointed-chief-executive-of-nhs-england/)

**July 2021 Price Concessions – Final Update**

DHSC has granted the final list of price concessions for July 2021. See the full list of price concessions here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/july-2021-price-concessions-final-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/july-2021-price-concessions-final-update/)

**Over half of contractors using MYS for end of month submission**

NHSBSA has confirmed that over 50% of pharmacy contractors are now using the [**Manage Your Service (MYS)**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/manage-your-service-mys) portal to digitally submit their end-of-month FP34C figures. PSNC encourages contractors to submit their end of month figures via MYS as it offers built-in validation to minimise the risk of data entry errors, the ability to view all past submissions in one place, plus much more. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-half-of-contractors-using-mys-for-end-of-month-submission/**

**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.