**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 15th August*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Irbesartan-containing products**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for Irbesartan-containing products: **Aprovel and Co-Aprovel**. This is a precautionary measure due to contamination with an impurity with mutagenic potential. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-irbesartan-containing-products/**

**CPCS IT changes from October 1st**

Contractors providing the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) will be required to [**procure their own IT system**](https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-it/pharmacy-system-suppliers/choosingchanging-a-system-supplier/) from the system suppliers in the market offering CPCS functionality from **1st October 2021**. PSNC strongly advises contractors to decide on which system they will use during the next few weeks and in advance of October to allow time for system set-up and configuration. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/action-reminder-cpcs-it-changes/**

**Requirement to submit NMS quarterly information returns**

Community pharmacy contractors are now required to start submitting their completed New Medicine Service (NMS) summary data to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) each quarter. This requirement was suspended due to the pandemic, but has now been re-instated, meaning that contractors must submit data to the NHSBSA within 10 working days from the last day of the quarter (i.e. the last day of June, September, December and March). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/requirement-to-submit-nms-quarterly-information-returns/**

**Further extension to SSP05 for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has decided to further extend SSP05 for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets to **Friday 12th November 2021**. This follows a review of the current supply situation for this product. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp05-for-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets/**

**Have your say on the use of health data and pharmacy access to health records**

Pharmacy teams and LPCs are strongly encouraged to share their views about the use of health data and community pharmacy access to electronic health records by completing the short NHSX Data Strategy Survey by**Friday 20th August 2021**. Complete the survey here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/survey-closing-feed-back-to-nhsx-about-pharmacy-access-to-health-records/**

**COVID-19 Cost Claims deadline**

The deadline for contractors to submit their COVID-19 cost claims was Sunday 15th August 2021 at 23:59.

**New Pharmacy Quality Scheme for 2021/22 announced**

Initial details of the new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for this year have been released. PSNC, DHSC and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have agreed the arrangements for the 2021/22 scheme, with a focus on priorities supporting recovery from COVID-19. The scheme will officially begin on **1st September 2021** with a declaration period in February 2022. As with previous schemes, it has £75m funding available and contractors will be able to claim an Aspiration payment if they wish to, later this year. In our negotiations on the scheme, a key win for PSNC was reducing the scope of this year's PQS so that the estimated contractor costs and time required to complete the criteria will be well below those associated with the original NHS proposal for the scheme. PSNC hopes that this, along with arguing for more realistic targets across the scheme, will help reduce the impact on contractor workload, at what continues to be a very busy period for the sector. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-pharmacy-quality-scheme-for-2021-22-announced/**

**Making a start on the 2021/22 PQS**

Following the announcement of the [**initial details of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2021/22**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-pharmacy-quality-scheme-for-2021-22-announced/), PSNC has advised what contractors can make a start on. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/the-2021-22-pqs-making-a-start/**

**CEO job opportunity at NEL LPC**

The Northeast London (NEL) LPC is looking to recruit an experienced Chief Executive Officer to support the organisation to drive its strategic work plan and help it achieve high-quality outcomes for the area’s 322 community pharmacy contractors. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ceo-job-opportunity-at-nel-lpc/**

**Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group safety culture survey**

The Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group is inviting community pharmacy teams to complete a short survey on the culture of safety reporting within the sector. This anonymous survey has been designed to gather information on frontline teams’ perspectives of the culture around safety reporting, the enablers and barriers to reporting, the clarity of the reporting processes, and the confidence of those reporting. The survey results will also enable the Group to assess whether attitudes to safety reporting have changed since the survey was last conducted in 2019. Complete the survey here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/community-pharmacy-patient-safety-group-safety-culture-survey/**

**Self-isolation to end for fully vaccinated**

As of **16th August 2021**, fully vaccinated healthcare staff – **including** those working in community pharmacy – will no longer be expected to isolate following close contact with a positive COVID-19 case and will be expected to return to work. However, NHSE&I have written to NHS providers asking them to ensure that several safeguards are put in place for them to do so safely. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/self-isolation-to-end-for-fully-vaccinated/**

**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.