**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 19th September*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Medicine Supply Notification Updates**

Updates have been issued for the following Medicine Supply Notifications:

* [**Dalacin 2% vaginal cream**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dalacin-clindamycin-2-vaginal-cream/)
* [**Glipizide 5mg tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-glipizide-minodiab-5mg-tablets/)

**Additional funding for off-site vaccine provision confirmed**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have confirmed that funding is available to support reasonable additional costs contractors might incur if they organise vaccination sessions off the pharmacy premises. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/additional-funding-for-off-site-provision-confirmed/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution**

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) for **Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-metformin-500mg-5ml-oral-solution/**

**APPG launches inquiry into the future of pharmacy**

The All-Party Parliamentary Pharmacy Group (APPG) has launched an inquiry into the future of pharmacy in the wake of COVID-19, which PSNC is supporting. The Group is seeking views from the pharmacy sector, and wider healthcare stakeholders, to inform the development of a manifesto which aims to unlock the potential of pharmacy and further improve patient outcomes. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/appg-launces-inquiry-into-the-future-of-pharmacy/**

**PSNC calls for pharmacy representation in Integrated Care Systems**

PSNC has called for pharmacy representation in Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in a joint communication to the Health and Care Bill Committee. The Bill in its current form does not specify representation for any primary care professions other than GPs. Primary care contractor representatives have therefore raised concerns about these proposals. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-calls-for-pharmacy-representation-in-integrated-care-systems/**

**JCVI issues updated advice on COVID-19 booster vaccination**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has updated its advice on the COVID-19 vaccine booster programme. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-jcvi-issues-updated-advice-on-booster-vaccination/**

**Changes to the LFD distribution service from October**

An updated service specification for the NHS Community Pharmacy COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Distribution Service (Pharmacy Collect) will come into effect from **4th October 2021**. The changes reflect experiences from the rollout of the service, insight from user engagement and wider changes in Government and NHS Test and Trace policy on COVID-19 testing. PSNC's Services Team has outlined the key changes to the service specification. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/changes-to-the-c-19-lfd-distribution-service-from-4th-oct/**

**PHE publish pharmacy briefing on addressing health inequalities**

Public Health England (PHE) has produced a briefing highlighting the unique role that pharmacy teams can play in helping to address health inequalities. This briefing may be useful for those contractors who are planning on working towards achieving the 'Addressing unwarranted variation in care' Domain of the PQS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/phe-publish-pharmacy-briefing-on-addressing-health-inequalities/**

**MHRA Drug Safety Update September 2021**

A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update (Vol 15 Issue 2 September 2021) has been published. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-september-2021/**

**PQS 2021/22 webinar now on-demand**

PSNC’s webinar on the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for 2021/22 is now available to watch on-demand. 96% of the webinar attendees found it helpful, and 88% reported that they would recommend it to others. Watch the webinar: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-2021-22-webinar-now-on-demand/**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for **Ikervis 1 mg/mL eye drops, emulsion**, due to detection of particles/crystals of the active pharmaceutical ingredient ciclosporin. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-2-medicines-recall-ikervis-1mg-ml-eye-drops-santen-oy-trading-as-santen-uk-limited/**

**New patient safety report resource**

PSNC has worked with the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group to produce a new resource to help contractors complete their patient safety report, which is a requirement of one of the Gateway criteria of the 2021/22 PQS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-patient-safety-report-resource/**

**CCPE launches newly qualified pharmacist programme**

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched their Newly qualified pharmacist programme, which is now open for applications. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cppe-launches-newly-qualified-pharmacist-programme/**

**CPCS IT provision: support for switchover**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have issued further support for the transfer of the cost of Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT solutions to pharmacy contractors. This includes publishing a new switching guide and organising another webinar on the subject. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-provision-support-for-switchover/**

**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.