**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 26th September*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Share your views on pharmacy’s role in improving oral health**

Pharmacy teams, particularly Medicines Counter Assistants (MCAs), are being invited to complete a university survey which aims to understand the key aspects of oral health care, from a community pharmacy perspective, and the most challenging areas to manage. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/share-your-views-on-pharmacys-role-in-improving-oral-health/**

**Requirement to update NHS website and DoS profile**

Contractors are reminded of the Terms of Service requirement to ensure they verify and, where necessary, update the information contained in their NHS website profile and their Directory of Services (DoS) profile at least once in each quarter of the financial year. The deadline for completing this for the current financial quarter is**30th September 2021**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-requirement-to-update-nhs-website-and-dos-profile-by-end-of-september/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-requirement-to-update-nhs-website-and-dos-profile-by-end-of-september/)

**September Price Concessions 2nd update**

The Department of Health and Social Care has published its updated list of price concessions for September 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/september-price-concessions-2nd-update**/

**Book now for Hypertension case finding webinar**

PSNC, in collaboration with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), will be holding a webinar about the new Hypertension Case-Finding Service on **Thursday 7th October at 7.30pm**. On the night presenters from PSNC and NHSE&I, will explain how the service will operate, outline the requirements that contractors must meet before offering the service, and highlight the guidance and resources available to support them. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/book-now-for-hypertension-case-finding-webinar/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/book-now-for-hypertension-case-finding-webinar/)

**DHSC arrangements for COVID-19 Cost Claim payments**

The arrangements for payment of community pharmacy contractors COVID-19 cost claims in October have now been finalised by DHSC and NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). PSNC is pleased to confirm that all contractors, even those identified by NHSBSA as needing pre-payment verification, will receive a payment at the start of October. Most contractors who made claims (95% of them) will receive a payment for the full value of their claim in October, although these are still subject to post-payment verification. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-cost-claims-dhsc-sets-out-arrangements-for-payment/**

**Maria Caulfield MP named as the new Pharmacy Minister**

Maria Caulfield MP has been named as the new Minister with responsibility for pharmacy. Her official title is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Patient Safety and Primary Care. She replaces Jo Churchill MP who moves to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/maria-caulfield/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/maria-caulfield/)

**PhAS 2022 webinar now on-demand**

PSNC’s webinar on the [**updated 2022 Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS)**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/details-about-2021-22-pharmacy-access-scheme-published/) is now available on-demand. Nearly 90% of attendees said they would recommend the webinar to others, with over half (56%) saying that they found it very useful. Watch an on-demand version of the webinar: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/phas-2022-webinar-now-on-demand/**

**October 2021 Category M Prices announced**

The Drug Tariff Category M pricelist for July 2021 has been published on the [**NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff/drug-tariff-part-viii). Adjustments have been agreed based on PSNC's analysis of margin delivery and on current projections for 2021/22. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/october-2021-category-m-prices-announced/**

**September video update from PSNC’s CEO**

In his latest video update, PSNC's CEO Simon Dukes reflects on how the Government's original offer on contractor's COVID-19 costs has been proven inadequate in light of the [**arrangements for the payment of these costs**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-cost-claims-dhsc-sets-out-arrangements-for-payment/) announced last week. Watch the video update: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/september-video-update-from-psncs-ceo/**

**COVID-19 LFD distribution service changes**

An updated version of the NHS Community Pharmacy COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Distribution Service (Pharmacy Collect) service specification will apply from **4th October 2021**. Ahead of this, PSNC would like to remind contractors providing the service of the need to ensure that they are displaying the new NHS Test and Trace marketing materials, where space permits. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/updated-c-19-lfd-distribution-service-marketing-materials-and-deadline-to-withdraw/**

**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.