**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 3rd October*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Levothyroxine 50mcg tablets**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for Levothyroxine 50mcg tablets. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-levothyroxine-50mcg-tablets-accord-uk-ltd-trading-style-north-star/**

**Medicines Supply Update: Fuel and driver shortages being closely monitored**

PSNC has been monitoring the medicines supply situation, working with the Healthcare Distribution Association (HDA) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), for many months, looking at factors such as the reported shortages of HGV drivers, continuing impact of COVID-19 and travel disruption. The fuel supply issue is yet another factor adding stress to the supply chain, and potentially for pharmacists getting to work. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicines-supply-update-fuel-and-driver-shortages-being-closely-monitored/**

**Requirement to submit NMS quarterly information postponed**

The requirement for community pharmacy contractors to submit their completed New Medicine Service (NMS) summary data for July-September 2021 to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has been postponed for this quarter. Following discussions with PSNC, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has advised that this requirement is now not due to be reinstated until Quarter 3 (October-December 2021). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/requirement-to-submit-nms-quarterly-information-postponed/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/requirement-to-submit-nms-quarterly-information-postponed/)

**Stoptober is back**

The Stoptober campaign is back and launching its 10th mass quit attempt which will run from 1st October to 31st October 2021. The campaign has helped 2.3 million people make quit attempts since the campaign’s launch 10 years ago. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/stoptober-is-back/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/stoptober-is-back/)

**Hypertension Case-Finding Service specification published**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have published a draft version of the service specification for the Community Pharmacy Hypertension Case-Finding Service. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-specification-published/**

**Flu vac: Frontline primary care staff added to Advanced Service**

Following repeated requests from PSNC, NHSE&I have announced that they have secured additional funding to support provision of flu vaccinations to frontline primary care staff during the 2021/22 flu season. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-frontline-primary-care-staff-added-to-advanced-service/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-frontline-primary-care-staff-added-to-advanced-service/)

**PSNC publishes 2020/21 Annual Report**

PSNC has published its 2020/21 annual report, setting out the work that it did on behalf of community pharmacy contractors in the last financial year. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-publishes-2020-21-annual-report/**

**Pandemic Delivery Service extended for self-isolators**

NHSE&I has confirmed a further extension of the period of commissioning of the Pandemic Delivery Service for people who have been notified of the need to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace; the service will now be commissioned until 11.59pm on **31st March 2022**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-service-for-self-isolators-extended-2/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-service-for-self-isolators-extended-2/)

**Secretary of State declaration of emergency extension**

The [**declaration of an emergency**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Pharm%20Serv%20%28Adv%20Enh%20Emerg%20Dec%29%20%28Further%20Amend%29%20%28Eng%29%20Directions%202021%2030092021.pdf) requiring the flexible provision of pharmaceutical services which was introduced to help maintain pharmacy services during the COVID-19 outbreak, has been extended to **31st January 2022**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/secretary-of-state-declaration-of-emergency-extension/**

**CPCS IT: Have you registered for the upcoming webinar?**

NHSE&I, with the support of PSNC, is planning to hold a webinar on the **14th of October, from 7.00-8.30pm**, to help contractors prepare for the transfer of the cost of Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT solutions to them after the end of March 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-have-you-registered-for-the-upcoming-webinar/**

**Booking for staff COVID-19 boosters now live**

NHSE&I have confirmed that frontline health and social care workers, which includes eligible Pharmacy staff, can now book their COVID-19 booster vaccinations through the [**National Booking Service**](https://generalpracticebulletin.cmail20.com/t/d-l-agitc-jutdjklhtl-u/) (NBS). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-staff-booking-for-c-19-booster-now-live/**

**Drug Tariff Watch: October 2021**

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply Team has created a summary of the Drug Tariff changes for October 2021. This includes details of additions, deletions and category and price changes. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-october-2021/**

**Anticoagulant audit data can now be added to MYS**

Community pharmacy contractors who have started their anticoagulant audit, as part of the requirements for the Medicines safety and optimisation domain of the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS), are now able to enter their data on the NHSBSA’s [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-anticoagulant-audit-data-can-now-be-added-to-mys/**

**Contacting PSNC’s Leadership Team from October**

As planned, Simon Dukes has now stepped down from his role as Chief Executive of PSNC. PSNC’s Appointments Panel is in the process of recruiting a replacement and hopes to be in a position to update the sector later in the autumn as planned. During the interim period, PSNC’s work supporting the sector and negotiating on its behalf will continue unchanged. The Directors at PSNC will lead the executive functions, and this will continue to be overseen by the PSNC Committee, including the Negotiating Team. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contacting-psncs-leadership-team-from-october/**

**PSNC hosts cross-sector meeting on medicines supply chain resilience**

On the 1st of October 2021, PSNC brought together stakeholders from across the supply chain, including DHSC and NHSE&I, to share intelligence and consider the impact of the ongoing problems with fuel supply. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-hosts-cross-sector-meeting-on-medicines-supply-chain-resilience/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-hosts-cross-sector-meeting-on-medicines-supply-chain-resilience/)

**The following PQS related updates were also announced during the w/c 27th September 2021:**

**PharmOutcomes support - asthma referrals**
Community pharmacy contractors can now access an asthma referral service on **[PharmOutcomes](https://pharmoutcomes.org/pharmoutcomes/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)** for the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). This is available free of charge to all contractors.

**Banding for 2021/22 PQS**

NHSBSA has [**published a spreadsheet**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/pharmaceutical/dispensing-contractors-information-0) detailing the banding that pharmacies have been put into for the 2021/22 PQS.

**Pharmacy PCN Lead spreadsheet**

NHSBSA has published an [**updated version of their Pharmacy Primary Care Network (PCN) Lead spreadsheet**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/pharmaceutical/dispensing-contractors-information-0) based on information provided by LPCs; the spreadsheet lists information on all the Pharmacy PCN Leads across the country. This spreadsheet will continue to be updated to assist contractors meeting the PCN domain to make their PQS declaration.

**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.