**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 17th October*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Supply Disruption Alert**: **RecTubes® 2.5mg Rectal Solution**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and Improvement (NHSE&I) have issued a supply disruption alert for **Diazepam RecTubes® 2.5mg Rectal Solution (Wockhardt UK Ltd**). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-diazepam-rectubes-2-5mg-rectal-solution-wockhardt-uk-ltd/**

**PQS Assessment Framework now available**

Community pharmacy contractors can now access the assessment framework 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. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-assessment-framework-now-available/**

**Hypertension Case-Finding Service webinar now on-demand**

PSNC’s webinar about the Hypertension Case-Finding service is now available on-demand. Nearly all attendees (99%) found the event useful and over 90% said they would recommend the webinar to others. Watch the webinar: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-webinar-now-on-demand/**

**Guidance on commissioning community pharmacy services**

New guidance has been published for healthcare commissioners on optimising health improvement through community pharmacies. This guidance sets out the core components, training requirements, key performance indicators and national guidance and evidence (where available), for the commissioning of services across the seven public health areas. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/optimising-health-improvement-through-community-pharmacies/**

**Pharmacies deliver record number of flu jabs**

Vulnerable people and members of the public have been flocking to community pharmacies this year to receive their annual flu vaccination.In just six weeks, pharmacies in England have vaccinated more than 1.8 million people – that's a 30% increase on the same time last year and means the sector could be on track to deliver a record 3 million flu jabs this winter. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacies-deliver-record-number-of-flu-jabs/**

**Health Secretary backs expanded minor ailment’s role for pharmacy**

The Secretary of State for Health, Sajid Javid, has backed a bigger role for community pharmacy teams in providing medicines to help people with minor conditions. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/health-secretary-backs-expanded-minor-ailments-role-for-pharmacy/**

**Class 2 Medicines Recall: Champix film-coated tablets**

**The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for Champix (all strengths) film-coated tablets (Pfizer Ltd). Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-2-medicines-recall-champix-all-strengths-film-coated-tablets-pfizer-ltd/**

**Toolkit to support local commissioning of PGD services launched**

PSNC has launched a toolkit to support Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) to work with commissioners to consider how patient group direction (PGD) services may provide additional care to patients at the right place and time. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/toolkit-to-support-local-commissioning-of-pgd-services-launched/**

**CEO job opportunity at Kent LPC**

Kent LPC is looking to recruit an experienced Chief Executive Officer to support them in driving the LPCs strategic plan. The ideal candidate will have strong, proven strategic and leadership skills, with experience and knowledge of community pharmacy. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ceo-job-opportunity-at-kent-lpc/**

**PNA guidance for local authority Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs)**

DHSC has published guidance on Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs). The guidance provides information on the legislative background, an overview of the PNA process, and the required engagement with members of the public and relevant contractors. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pna-guidance-for-local-authority-health-and-wellbeing-boards/**

**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.