**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 7th November*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Reminder: Accessing earlier advance payments following changes to submission requirements**

From November 2021, all pharmacy contractors can access their monthly advance payments around **20 days earlier** by submitting their FP34Cs using the [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/manage-your-service-mys) no later than the **5th of the month** following that in which supply was made. For the October 2021 dispensing month, contractors will receive earlier advance payments on 11th November 2021 (instead of 1st December 2021), as long as FP34C submissions are made through MYS by 5th November. **Pharmacy contractors who continue to submit their end of month declaration using the paper FP34C form, or submit through MYS after the 5th of the month, will NOT receive earlier advance payments** but instead will receive advance payments in accordance with the current payment timetable, i.e. on or around the 1st of the month following submission. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-updated-prescription-sorting-and-fp34c-submission-requirements/**

**NHS Profile Manager to replace DoS Updater and NHS Website Editor in early 2022**

Currently, community pharmacy contractors use two different NHS systems to ensure their pharmacy details are up to date in the NHS 111 Directory of Services (DoS) and on the NHS website: the NHS website profile editor and the DoS profile updater. These will shortly be replaced by a new tool, called **NHS profile manager**, which is due for release in early 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-profile-manager-to-replace-dos-updater-and-nhs-website-editor-in-early-2022/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Acebutolol 100mg capsules**

TheDepartment of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for **Acebutolol (Sectral®) 100mg capsules**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-acebutolol-sectral-100mg-capsules/**

**PQS: Action and Evidence Portfolio Workbook now available**

PSNC has published an Action and Evidence Portfolio Workbook to support community pharmacy contractors to meet the requirements of the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). The Workbook contains questions (based on what contractors are required to declare) for pharmacy teams to answer to see if they are meeting the requirements of the Gateway/Domains. The Workbook also provides contractors with examples of suggested evidence that they can use to confirm they have the necessary evidence ready to make their PQS declaration. Download the PQS Workbook: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-action-and-evidence-portfolio-workbook-now-available/**

**Self Care week 2021**

Self Care Week, which is an annual national awareness week that focuses on providing support for self care across communities and families, will be running again this year on 15th-21st November 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/self-care-week-2021/**

**October 2021 Price Concessions Final Update**

DHSC has granted the final list of price concessions for October 2021. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/october-2021-price-concessions-final-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/october-2021-price-concessions-final-update/)

**Over 400 products added to the DND list in the past 18 months**

Following applications made by PSNC, a further **18 new products** entered the list of 'Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted' (DND) in Part II of the Drug Tariff from November 2021. This takes the total number of products granted DND status over the past 18 months to over **400** following checks made by PSNC. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-400-products-added-to-dnd-list-in-past-18-months/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-400-products-added-to-dnd-list-in-past-18-months/)

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information Update: SyreniRing 0.120 mg/0.015 mg per 24 hours, vaginal delivery system**

**DHSC has issued an update to the** class 4 medicines defect information notice for **SyreniRing 0.120 mg/0.015 mg per 24 hours, vaginal delivery system (Crescent Pharma Ltd)**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-syreniring-0-120-mg-0-015-mg-per-24-hours-vaginal-delivery-system-crescent-pharma-ltd/**

**NHS Prescription Services ‘Hints and Tips’ – Issue 45**

NHS Prescription Services produces a quarterly newsletter called "Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors". The latest edition contains some useful information and advice on the new pharmacy payment timetable, a guide to patient exemption checking, what to include in the red separator, and user research on the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-45/**

**Arrangements for full CPAF questionnaire**

The full version of the Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) questionnaire is now open for completion. Pharmacies may be invited to complete the full CPAF questionnaire if, for example, they did not complete the screening survey earlier this year or if there are concerns about the pharmacy relating to patient safety.
The selected pharmacies will have until 28th November 2021 to complete the full CPAF questionnaire on the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/arrangements-for-full-cpaf-questionnaire/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/arrangements-for-full-cpaf-questionnaire/)

**Reminder: Winter vaccines campaign materials to start arriving from Monday**

Community pharmacy contractors are [**reminded**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/second-mandated-health-campaign-of-2021-22-winter-vaccines/) that the campaign materials for the Winter vaccines campaign will start arriving in pharmacies via Royal Mail from Monday (8th November 2021). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-winter-vaccines-campaign-materials-to-start-arriving-from-monday/**

**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.