**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 24th October*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Contractor Notice: New paper FP34C forms and changes to sorting requirements**

From October 2021, the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will be posting out a **new version of the paper FP34C form**. This form will continue to be issued until March 2022 (for prescriptions dispensed in February 2022), after which FP34C submissions through the [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login) will become compulsory. Contractors should note that the sorting requirements on the revised paper FP34C form have been updated. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-new-paper-fp34c-forms-and-changes-to-sorting-requirements/**

**Upcoming RPS Inclusion and Diversity events**

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is working to encourage inclusion and diversity within the sector, including through a series of virtual inclusion and diversity events. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/upcoming-rps-inclusion-and-diversity-events/**

**Outgoing PSNC CEO gives speech at Pharmacy Show**

At the Pharmacy Show on Sunday morning (17th October), the outgoing CEO of PSNC, Simon Dukes, highlighted the resilience of community pharmacy teams during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as their importance to the health service and the general public. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-and-government-owe-pharmacy-a-great-debt-says-outgoing-psnc-ceo/**

**NHSE&I announces support for community pharmacy integration**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have announced funding for Integrated Care System (ICS) based community pharmacy integration leads. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-announces-support-for-community-pharmacy-integration/**

**PNA guidance for LPCs published**

PSNC has published guidance on Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs). This guidance aims to assist Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) engagement with the development of PNAs. The guidance includes information on LPCs role in the development of PNAs, the information requirements for PNAs from a community pharmacy perspective, and top tips for LPCs to consider. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pna-guidance-for-lpcs-published/**

**Share your views on pharmacy IT infrastructure**

PSNC, working with the Community Pharmacy IT Group ([**CP ITG**](https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-it/policy-the-nhs-and-it/community-pharmacy-it-group-cpitg/)), has launched a short survey to gather feedback about community pharmacy IT infrastructure. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/share-your-views-on-pharmacy-it-infrastructure/**

**Second mandated health campaign of 2021/22: Winter vaccines**

NHSE&I and PSNC have agreed that contractors will be asked to participate in a Winter vaccines campaign. This is the second mandated health campaign for 2021/22, which contractors **must**undertake as part of their NHS contractual requirements. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/second-mandated-health-campaign-of-2021-22-winter-vaccines/**

**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.