**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 28th November*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**PQS: AMS virtual event now on-demand**

Community pharmacy contractors can now access an online recording of an antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) virtual event. The webinar aims to support pharmacy teams to meet the requirements of the Prevention Domain of the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). The event, originally held on 16th November 2021, included a discussion about AMS and the use of the Antibiotic Checklist and other tools which can be used in community pharmacy, as well as highlighting resources developed by PSNC. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-ams-virtual-event-now-on-demand/**

**MHRA Class 3 Medicines Recall: Methadone 5mg tablets/Physeptone 5mg tablets**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 3 medicines recall for: **Methadone 5mg Tablets / Physeptone 5mg Tablets**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-3-medicines-recall-methadone-5mg-tablets-physeptone-5mg-tablets/**

**NHS bodies to merge under workforce and technology reforms**

NHS Digital, NHSX and Health Education England will be absorbed into NHS England as part of plans to develop the workforce and improve technology across the NHS in England. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) says merging the three organisations with NHS England aims to drive progress forward by bringing them under one roof for the first time. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-bodies-to-merge-under-workforce-and-technology-reforms/**

**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 single tool, called NHS Profile Manager, which is due for release in early 2022.To improve information security, the new NHS Profile Manager tool will require contractors and their staff to use NHSmail email accounts as a login identifier, rather than other non-NHSmail email addresses. Throughout November and December 2021, NHS Digital will be getting in touch with NHS website profile editors who do not yet have an NHSmail email address recorded in their profile editor account. The email from NHS Digital will explain how these contractors can update their login details to include an NHSmail address. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-nhs-profile-manager-to-replace-dos-updater-and-nhs-website-editor-in-early-2022/**

**Update on Pharmacy IT workstreams published**

Following its quarterly meeting on November 17th 2021, the Community Pharmacy IT Group (CP ITG) has published its [**Pharmacy IT winter 2021 roundup**](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Community-pharmacy-IT-progress-update-Winter-2021-CP-ITG.pdf). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-pharmacy-it-workstreams-published-4/**

**November LPC Conference: Workforce issues are key concern**

The November Meeting of LPCs and PSNC held earlier this month focused on the challenges currently facing the community pharmacy sector and planning for 2022, including the continuing workforce pressures on contractors. The event was attended by delegates representing 66 LPCs, with some attending in-person and some virtually. At the conference, delegates heard from Marc Donovan, PSNC Committee Member and Chair of the Community Pharmacy Workforce Development Group, on this issue and, when asked to indicate the top challenges for contractors and their LPC's priorities, the poll responses confirmed that both workforce and funding issues were at the top of their list. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-lpc-conference-workforce-issues-are-key-concern/**

**Supply Disruption Alert: Hypovase 500microgram tablets**

DHSC and NHS England and Improvement (NHSE&I) have issued a supply disruption alert for **Hypovase® (prazosin) 500microgram tablets (Pfizer)**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-hypovase-prazosin-500microgram-tablets-pfizer/**

**New SSP issued for Salazopyrin 500mg EN-TABS**

A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued for the supply of Salazopyrin EN-Tabs, and community pharmacy teams are required to implement the new protocol with immediate effect. SSP014 provides that for every Salazopyrin®EN-Tabs 500mg tablet originally prescribed, one**Sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant (GR) tablet** must be supplied. The SSP has been developed in response to a significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Salazopyrin EN-Tabs and is currently due to be in place until **20th December 2021**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-issued-for-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg/**

**November 2021 Price Concessions 2nd Update**

An updated list of Price Concessions for November 2021 has been published. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-2021-price-concessions-2nd-update/**

**Changes to patient satisfaction survey requirements announced**

The requirement that all pharmacy contractors undertake an annual survey of patients using the Community Pharmacy Patient Questionnaire (CPPQ) has been changed. Contractors now have to undertake an annual assessment of patient satisfaction, but they do no need to use the CPPQ. PSNC’s proposals for these changes to the requirements were agreed by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care, and the detail is set out in updated Approved Particulars for the annual patient experience survey. Under the new requirements, contractors must still undertake a survey, but they can now collect feedback on their patients' experience of using the pharmacy's NHS services through a variety of methods, rather than having to use the CPPQ. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/changes-to-patient-satisfaction-survey-requirements-announced/**

**New PSNC East Midlands and South Yorkshire Regional Representative**

PSNC is pleased to announce that Lindsey Fairbrother, an independent contractor from Derbyshire, has been co-opted as the Regional Representative for the East Midlands and South Yorkshire Region. Lindsey will represent all independent contractors in the region at the PSNC Committee until 31st March 2023, which is the end of the current term for all Regional Representatives. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-psnc-east-midlands-and-south-yorkshire-regional-representative/**

**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.