**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 31st October*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**New Hypertension Case-Finding Service resources published**

PSNC has published several additional resources to support community pharmacy contractors who are providing or planning to provide the Hypertension Case-Finding Service, which became a new Advanced service on 1st October 2021. Download these resources here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-resources-update/**

**Class 3 Medicines recall: Bimatoprost 0.3mg/ml eye drops, solution**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 3 medicines recall for: **Bimatoprost 0.3mg/ml eye drops, solution in single dose container 0.4ml x 30 (Aspire Pharma) PL 35533/0128.** Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-3-medicines-recall-bimatoprost-0-3mg-ml-eye-drops-solution-in-single-dose-container-0-4ml-x-30-aspire-pharma/**

**Drug Tariff Watch – November 2021**

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

**Deletion of unlicensed Venlafaxine oral solution listings**
Venlafaxine 37.5mg/5ml and 75mg/5ml sugar free oral solution is being removed from Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff because licensed alternatives are now available. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/venlafaxine-37-5mg-5ml-and-75mg-5ml-oral-solution-sugar-free-deleted-from-part-viiib-of-november-drug-tariff/**

**Autumn Budget: PSNC warns of ongoing squeeze on pharmacies**

The Autumn budget romised additional funding for the NHS, including for some 50 million more primary care appointments as part of 100 community diagnostic centres. However, no specific pledges were made about supporting community pharmacy. PSNC's comprehensive bid for an uplift to Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) funding made earlier this year was ultimately rejected by HM Treasury. We remain concerned about the rising pressures on all pharmacies and we are continuing to work to quantify these and to highlight the urgent need for support – both funding, and to ease capacity pressures – to HM Government and the NHS. PSNC will also continue to work with others across the sector to ensure that policy makers understand the critical role that pharmacies are playing in supporting the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the enormous value that the sector delivers. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/autumn-budget-psnc-warns-of-ongoing-squeeze-on-pharmacies/**

**How many LFD test kits do you have in stock?**

A communications campaign will shortly remind parents that children aged 11-18 should have a lateral flow test before they return to school after half-term. This campaign may mean that contractors who are providing the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Distribution Service (Pharmacy Collect) see an increase in demand for test kits. Contractors are, therefore, encouraged to review their stock levels to ensure that they have adequate stock of test kits. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/how-many-lfd-test-kits-do-you-have-in-stock/**

**Medicine Supply Notification Updates**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued update to the following medicine supply notifications:

[**Desmopressin (Octim) 150mcg per actuation nasal spray (Ferring Pharmaceuticals)**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-desmopressin-octim-150mcg-per-actuation-nasal-spray-ferring-pharmaceuticals/)

[**Gentisone HC® (Gentamicin 0.3% w/v and Hydrocortisone acetate 1% w/v) Ear Drops**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-gentisone-hc-gentamicin-0-3-w-v-and-hydrocortisone-acetate-1-w-v-ear-drops/)

[**DDAVP (Desmopressin) 0.01% w/v (100 micrograms/ml) intranasal solution**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ddavp-desmopressin-0-01-w-v-100-micrograms-ml-intranasal-solution/)

DHSC has also issued a medicine supply notification for: **Latanoprost 50microgram/ml / timolol 5mg/ml (Fixapost®) 0.2ml unit dose preservative free eye drops**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-latanoprost-50microgram-ml-timolol-5mg-ml-fixapost-0-2ml-unit-dose-preservative-free-eye-drops/**

**Adjusted price for Indoramin 20mg tablets**

During the month of October 2021, PSNC received several reports from contractors unable to obtain Indoramin 20mg tablets (60) at the published [**Drug Tariff**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff) price of £50.59. PSNC submitted a request for a price concession but this was later withdrawn after confirmation from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that, due to the [**price change mechanism**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/endorsement/how-the-price-change-mechanism-works/), the reimbursement price for Indoramin 20mg tablets increased from £50.59 to **£73.46**for the month of October 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/adjusted-price-for-indoramin-20mg-tablets-following-price-changes-in-october-2021/**

**Over 3million flu vaccinations administered in eight weeks**

Community pharmacy teams have proved yet again that they can deliver vital public health services at scale and pace, having administered over 3 million flu vaccinations under the national Flu Vaccination Service in just eight weeks, which is a new record for the sector. If vaccinations continue at this pace, pharmacies could be on track to top 4 million flu vaccinations this season. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-pharmacy-record-over-3-million-flu-vaccinations-administered-in-eight-weeks/**

**Supply Disruption Alert Update: Champix 0.5mg and 1mg tablets**

An update to the Supply Disruption Alert for **Champix (varenicline) 0.5mg and 1mg tablets has been issued. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-affecting-champix-varenicline-tablets-pfizer/**

**October video update from PSNC Policy Team**

In this month's video, our Director of NHS Services praises the efforts of community pharmacy teams in breaking their previous flu vaccination record and reflects on how important this achievement is in demonstrating what pharmacies are capable of, given the right support. Watch the video update: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/october-video-update-from-psnc-policy-team/**

**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.