**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 5th December*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Drug Tariff Watch – December 2021**

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

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Diuril Oral Solution**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for: **Diuril Oral Solution (unlicensed medicine), Mawdsley-Brooks & Company Limited**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-diuril-oral-solution-unlicensed-medicine-mawdsley-brooks-company-limited/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-diuril-oral-solution-unlicensed-medicine-mawdsley-brooks-company-limited/)

**Medicine Supply Notification Update – Gentisone HC Ear Drops**

The Medicine Supply Notification for **Gentisone HC® (Gentamicin 0.3% w/v and Hydrocortisone acetate 1% w/v) Ear Drops has been updated. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-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/)

**MHRA** **Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Mometasone Furoate 50 Microgram / Dose Nasal Spray**

The MHRA has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for: **Mometasone Furoate 50 Microgram / Dose Nasal Spray, Suspension, PilsCo Ltd**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-mometasone-furoate-50-microgram-dose-nasal-spray/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Sulfasalazine 500mg tablets**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for **Sulfasalazine (Salazopyrin En-Tabs®) 500mg tablets. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-sulfasalazine-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-tablets/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for injection ampoules**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for **Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for injection ampoules. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-5mg-powder-for-solution-for-injection-ampoules/**

**CPCS IT: Have you selected your system ahead of the upcoming deadline?**

The national procurement model which is currently supporting contractors’ delivery of the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS), will come to an end at the end of **March 2022**. Time is, therefore, running out for contractors to choose their own CPCS IT systems from the validated suppliers. It is vital that contractors planning to continue delivering CPCS, select and arrange their system by **no later than February 2022**. Failure to do so may impact referrals and service continuity. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-have-you-selected-your-system-ahead-of-the-upcoming-deadline/**

**Take part with research on Virtual Visits booking and consultation tool**

Contractors are invited to take part in research trialling the new NHSmail Virtual Visits booking and consultation platform. Those pharmacy teams taking part in the pilot will be able to use the Virtual Visits tool to experiment with booking and carrying out face to face and/or virtual patient consultations. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/take-part-with-research-on-virtual-visits-booking-and-consultation-tool/**

**November 2021 Price Concessions – Final update**

The final list of price concessions for November 2021 have been published. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-2021-price-concessions-final-update/**

**Updated IPC guidance and face coverings mandatory again in pharmacies**

Following changes to regulations, the wearing of face coverings in shops, including community pharmacies, is once again mandatory in England. The UK Health Security Agency also updated the UK-wide infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance last week, with a continuing recommendation that pharmacy staff wear a face mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Contractors can continue to order personal protective equipment (PPE) free of charge from the Government portal. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/updated-ipc-guidance-and-face-coverings-mandatory-again-in-pharmacies/**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall – Irbesartan containing products**

The MHRA has issued a Class 2 Medicines Recall for **Irbesartan-containing products** from **various Marketing Authorisation Holders and parallel distributor companies. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-irbesartan-containing-products-2/**

**High-level talks under way on community pharmacy workforce shortage**

The chief executives of the national community pharmacy bodies in England met with senior NHS England and NHS Improvement officials in October, to discuss the current limited availability of pharmacists for community pharmacy roles, which has led to difficulties maintaining services and temporary closures in some instances. NHS England's director for primary care, Ed Waller, and chief pharmaceutical officer Keith Ridge held talks with leaders from across the pharmacy sector, including representatives from PSNC, on 28th October. The topics ranged from the new roles for pharmacists in primary care, an increasing trend towards locum work, decreased participation in permanent roles and temporary staff absence during the pandemic. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/workforce-shortage-november2021/**

**New Primary Care Staff Respect Materials**

In recognition of the increasing abuse and violence that primary care teams now regularly face, the NHS has published a suite of downloadable materials and guidance for use by primary care staff to encourage patients to treat NHS staff with respect. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-primary-care-staff-respect-materials/**

**Manufacturer and wholesaler Christmas opening hours 2021**

At this busy time of year manufacturers are working closely with wholesalers to ensure that sufficient stock is available at wholesalers for the Christmas period. To support contractors, PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has compiled a summary of customer service desk opening hours and information on order cut off/delivery schedules. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/manufacturer-wholesaler-christmas-opening-hours-2021/**

**Reminder: Submit through MYS by December 5th to secure earlier advance payment**

Contractors can now submit their claims for NHS pharmaceutical services delivered in November 2021 by submitting their FP34Cs through the [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/manage-your-service-mys) between 1st-5th December. To secure access to**earlier advance payments on 9th December** (for November 2021 prescriptions), contractors must submit their FP34Cs through MYS by the end of**Sunday** **5th December**. Contractors who submit their November FP34C figures**late** through MYS (after 5th December) or continue to declare using the **paper FP34C submission document** will **NOT** receive earlier advance payments and instead, will receive their advance payments in accordance with the normal payment timetable i.e. on 31st December 2021. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-submit-through-mys-by-5-december-to-secure-earlier-advance-payment/**

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

Updated Government recommendations on COVID-19 testing mean community pharmacies could start to experience an increase in demand for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits. Contractors are therefore encouraged to review stock levels and where there is space to store additional cartons of test kits within the pharmacy, consider placing additional orders to ensure their pharmacy teams can meet demand over the next couple of months. As we approach the busy Christmas and New Year period, same or next day delivery should not be relied upon. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/how-many-lfd-test-kits-do-you-have-in-stock-2/**

**PSNC urges Government to support all pharmacies through COVID-19 booster push**

PSNC has warned HM Government and the NHS of the need to provide further support for all community pharmacies as we head into what will be an extremely challenging winter period. Contractors are already reporting mounting pressures, particularly with ongoing workforce problems and the associated capacity issues and rise in staffing costs, and PSNC is concerned that this will not be sustainable through another challenging winter. Whilst PSNC would strongly support the approval of more pharmacy COVID-19 vaccination sites to help with boosters, we have also this week pressed NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to recognise the impact of the vaccination programme on all community pharmacies. We are seeking additional measures to ease pressure, which could include regulatory support, the removal of administrative burdens and changes to the current Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-urges-government-to-support-all-pharmacies-through-covid-19-booster-push/**

**Discharge Medicines Service digital guide published**

PSNC has published a digital guide to the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) for community pharmacy contractors. The half-hour guide provides some background on the service and an overview of the service requirements. The guide offers busy contractors, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians an alternative way to ensure they are aware of what is required to provide the service and complements the other information and guidance available on PSNC's [**DMS webpage**](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/essential-services/discharge-medicines-service/). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/discharge-medicines-service-digital-guide-for-contractors-published/**

**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.