**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 12th December*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Are you using Microsoft Teams?**

Throughout winter 2020, the NHSmail team upgraded pharmacy NHSmail accounts to enable pharmacy NHSmail users to use a range of Microsoft Office 365 apps and features, including Microsoft Teams: a [**video conferencing**](https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-it/communications-across-healthcare-it/video-conferencing/) program allowing audio and video calls via an internet connection. PSNC has produced an NHSmail Microsoft Teams and upgrade factsheet, which outlines the improvements made to pharmacy personal NHSmail accounts during the upgrade and includes information about the Microsoft Teams functionality. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/are-you-using-microsoft-teams/**

**PSNC Planning Meeting: Renewed evidence drive and Year Four negotiations**

At the end of last month, PSNC met to consider the ongoing pressures facing the sector and to plan for the upcoming negotiations with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) on Year 4 of the five-year Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) deal. During the meeting, PSNC Members explored the current critical issues for community pharmacy businesses, including funding, efficiencies, workforce and capacity, and services and patient demand for healthcare advice. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-planning-meeting-renewed-evidence-drive-and-year-4-negotiations/**

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall**

**The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for Mydrilate 0.5% Eye Drops 5ml (Intrapharm Laboratories Ltd). Read more: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-intrapharm-laboratories-ltd-mydrilate-eye-drops-5ml/**

**COVID-19: New treatments**

The UK Government has made available new treatment options for COVID-19 for eligible groups of patients. A national study has now launched and is recruiting around 10,000 UK patients at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 to be among the first in the world to take the antiviral **molnupiravir** at home after receiving a positive PCR test. Those at highest risk who test positive for the virus – for example, people who are immunocompromised, cancer patients or those with Down’s syndrome – will also be able to access either molnupiravir or the novel monoclonal antibody Ronapreve outside of the study from 16th December 2021. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-new-treatments/**

**Retrospective price adjustment**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have granted a [**retrospective concessionary price**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/isocarboxazid-10mg-tablets) for Isocarboxazid 10mg tablets for the months of May and June 2021. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/retrospective-price-adjustment-for-isocarboxazid-10mg-tablets-claimed-in-may-and-june-2021/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/retrospective-price-adjustment-for-isocarboxazid-10mg-tablets-claimed-in-may-and-june-2021/)

**Over 8,600 pharmacy contractors benefit from earlier advance payment in December**

Over **8,600**community pharmacy contractors who declared their November 2021 FP34C submission figures through the [**MYS portal**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=21eec16ba1&e=b3c36abde4) **by 5th December** will have receivedearlier advance payments on 9th December (circa 20 days earlier than the regular advance payment timetable). Contractors who got earlier advance payments will shortly receive a letter from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) regarding these payments. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-8600-pharmacy-contractors-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payment-timetable/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Estradiol 24hours vaginal delivery system.**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for **Estradiol (Estring®) 7.5microgram/24hours vaginal delivery system. Read more: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estradiol-estring7-5microgram-24hours-vaginal-delivery-system/**

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Xylocaine 100micrograms solution for injection vials**

**DHSC** has issued a medicine supply notification for **Xylocaine® 1% and 2% (lidocaine) with adrenaline 100micrograms/20ml solution for injection vials. Read more: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-xylocaine-1-and-2-lidocaine-with-adrenaline-100micrograms-20ml-1200000-solution-for-injection-vials/**

**Collection of unwanted medicines and out of date stock**

PSNC has recently received several queries from contractors about the collection of waste medicines. We would like to remind contractors that NHSE&I regional teams are responsible for arranging the collection of waste medicines from pharmacies, but increasingly Anenta Limited is being contracted to collect and dispose of this waste. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/collection-of-unwanted-medicines-and-out-of-date-stock/**

**Pharmacy Collect: Are you prepared for increased demand?**

Following recent developments regarding the Omicron variant of COVID-19, community pharmacy contractors are advised that they may see demand for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits increase significantly. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-are-you-ready-for-increased-demand/**

**Pharmacy Collect: Orient Gene and MYS claiming issues**

Contractors have highlighted problems when trying to enter Orient Gene lateral flow device test kits onto the Manage Your Service (MYS) application. Contractors with affected stock will need to add the letter ‘G’ in front of the lot number to submit their data. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-orient-gene-and-mys-claiming-issues/**

**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.