**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 9th January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**December 2021 Price Concessions: Final Update**

The Department of Health and Social Care has granted the final list of Price Concessions for December 2021. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/december-2021-price-concessions-final-update/**

**Online NHS directory helps patients find most appropriate service**

Community pharmacy teams are reminded to make use of the [**NHS Service Finder**](https://finder.directoryofservices.nhs.uk/) online search tool. This tool provides fast, accurate online information about local health and social care services, thereby enabling pharmacy staff to signpost patients to the most appropriate care and removing the need for them to refer to outdated directories. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/online-nhs-directory-helps-find-most-appropriate-service-for-patients/**

**Revised PhAS begins – Review application window now open**

A revised version of the Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS) began on 1st January 2022. Community pharmacy contractors eligible under the updated criteria will receive the first of the new monthly PhAS payments for their pharmacy with the January reconciliation payment due on 1st April 2022. Find out more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/revised-pharmacy-access-scheme-begins/**

**Pharmacy Collect – UKHSA update on LFD stock**

By the end of this week (8th January 2022), the UKHSA will have distributed over 8 million tests to Alliance Healthcare (representing c.1,142,800 individual packs of 7 tests and just over 19,000 cartons). For the remainder of January the UKHSA is planning to distribute 10.5 million tests per week (c. 1.5 million individual packs of 7 tests and just over 25,000 cartons) via Alliance Healthcare, replenishing Alliance Healthcare depots as test kits are distributed to pharmacies. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-ukhsa-update-on-lfd-stock-2/**

**Update on the weight management health campaign**

The weight management health campaign, which was originally due to start on 4th January 2022, will now begin next week when pharmacies receive the campaign materials. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-the-weight-management-health-campaign/**

**Pharmacy Collect: SureScreen and MYS claiming**

Community pharmacy contractors ordering Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits will soon start to receive a different brand of test kits (SureScreen) from Alliance Healthcare. In addition, contractors entering lot numbers for SureScreen LFD test kits onto the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal are advised to omit the ‘COVN’ and ‘OM’ characters where these appear and simply input the numbers as the lot number to submit their data. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-surescreen-and-mys-claiming/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-surescreen-and-mys-claiming/)

**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.