**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 16th January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Medicine Supply Notification Update – Kolanticon gel**

An update has been issued for the Medicine Supply Notification for Kolanticon gel. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-kolanticon-gel-2-5mg-dicycloverine-hydrochloride-200mg-aluminium-hydroxide-100mg-light-magnesium-oxide-20mg-simethicone-per-5ml/**

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

An update has been issued for the 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/**

**PSNC welcomes new Chief Pharmacist**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has confirmed the appointment of David Webb as the next Chief Pharmaceutical Officer (CPhO) for England. Mr Webb is currently Chief Pharmacist and Clinical Director for Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation and will start his new role in February. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-welcomes-new-chief-pharmacist/**

**Contractor notice – Expiry of SSP013 for Liptor 20mg chewable tablets**

The Serious Shortage Protocol, SSP013, for Lipitor 20mg chewable tablets is due to expire at 23.59pm tonight (Wednesday 12th January 2022). After this time, any prescriptions for Lipitor 20mg chewable tablets must be dispensed in accordance with the prescription as SSP013 will no longer be valid for use. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp013-for-lipitor-20mg-chewable-tablets/**

**Contractors benefit from earlier advance payment in January**

**Nearly** **9,000**community pharmacy contractors will have receivedearlier advance payments today (12th January). This is circa 20 days earlier than the regular advance payment timetable. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nearly-9000-pharmacy-contractors-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payment-in-january/**

**CPCS IT deadline approaching**

The national procurement of IT support for the CPCS is due to finish at the end of March 2022. Contractors that want to continue providing the service must, therefore, confirm their choice of CPCS IT system by no later than **February 2022**. Those contractors who choose to stay with their current IT provider still need to confirm this. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-deadline-approaching-have-you-confirmed-your-choice-of-system/**

**Drug Tariff price re-determination for Metformin**

Following request from PSNC, the reimbursement prices for Metformin 850mg/5ml oral solution sugar free (150ml) and Metformin 1g/5ml oral solution sugar free (150ml) for the month of November 2021 have been re-determined. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/redetermination-of-drug-tariff-price-for-for-metformin-850mg-5ml-and-1g-ml-oral-solutions-sugar-free-for-november-2021/**

**Free PPE for pharmacy teams extended for another year**

The Government's offer of free personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline health and social care staff in England, including community pharmacy teams, has been extended for another year until **31st March 2023**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/free-ppe-for-pharmacy-teams-extended-for-another-year/**

**January 2022 Price Concessions – First Update**

DHSC has issued an initial list of price concessions for January 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-2022-price-concessions-1st-update/**

**More CPCS referrals expected to community pharmacy from NHS111**

Contractors can expect to receive more referrals from NHS 111 for the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) following a review of the NHS Pathway algorithms. The changes introduce three new condition types (scratches and grazes, teething, sinusitis) and incorporate general health information requests. Based on NHS 111 call volumes data, these changes could generate 275,000 additional referral opportunities annually. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/more-cpcs-referrals-expected-to-community-pharmacy-from-nhs-111/**

**Over 22million COVID vaccines delivered by community pharmacy**

More than 22 million jabs have been delivered by community pharmacy-led COVID vaccination sites in the past 12 months. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-22-million-covid-vaccines-delivered-by-community-pharmacy/**

**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.