**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 23rd January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Take part in SCR Alert Viewer research**

NHS Digital would like to invite community pharmacy governance persons to share their views on several changes planned to the Summary Care Record (SCR) Alert Viewer. Those interested in giving feedback will be invited to join a short ten-minute call at a time convenient to them. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/take-part-in-scr-alert-viewer-research/**

**Take part in PSNC’s pharmacy pressures survey**

PSNC is increasingly hearing from pharmacy teams who are struggling to cope with ongoing financial and operational pressures, and who are concerned about the impact that the strain on the sector will ultimately have on patients. We are continuing to raise this with policy-makers, making clear the consequences that their decisions are having. To further support those discussions, we have today launched two surveys to gather more data on the pressures that everyone working in community pharmacy is under and the impact that this is having. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/take-part-in-psncs-pharmacy-pressures-survey/**

**January 2022 Price Concessions – 2nd update**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has granted its second update on the list of price concessions for January 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-2022-price-concessions-2nd-update/**

**Community pharmacy involvement in Ask for Ani scheme hailed as a success**

A year ago, community pharmacies were encouraged to get involved with the Ask for ANI (Assistance Needed Immediately) scheme. This scheme provides a safe way for domestic abuse victims to access support from the police or relevant support services. The Home Office recently confirmed the success of this scheme which has supported at least 100 victims in its first year, and urged more pharmacies to get involved. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/community-pharmacies-implementing-ask-for-ani-scheme-to-help-domestic-abuse-victims-hailed-as-a-success/**

**MHRA Drug Safety Update – January 2022**

A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update has been published. This update includes information on COVID-19 vaccines and medicines, medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in December 2021, and more. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-january-2022/**

**Have you received your weight management health campaign materials?**

Pharmacies should have received materials for the weight management health campaign last week. Contractors that have not received these materials should email partnerships@phe.gov.uk as soon as possible. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-received-your-weight-management-health-campaign-materials/**

**Take part in research on the Virtual Visits tool**

We would like to remind contractors of the invitation to participate in research trialling the new NHSmail Virtual Visits appointment booking and remote consultation platform. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-take-part-in-research-on-the-virtual-visits-booking-and-remote-consultation-tool/**

MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall – Ikervis eye drops emulsion

**The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 2 medicines recall for IKERVIS 1 mg/ml eye drops, emulsion. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-ikervis-1mg-ml-eye-drops-emulsion-santen-oy-trading-as-santen-uk-ltd/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Bambuterol 10mg tablets**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for **Bambuterol (Bambec® ) 10mg Tablets. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-bambuterol-bambec-10mg-tablets/**

**Just under 2 weeks left to complete PhAS 2022 scheme review application**

We would like to remind community pharmacy contractors eligible to apply for a Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS) review that you have until **midnight on 4th February 2022** to complete your application on NHS England & NHS Improvement's (NHSE&I) dedicated web review portal. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/just-under-2-weeks-to-complete-pharmacy-access-scheme-2022-review-application/**

POCT in community pharmacies guide

NHSE&I has published guidance to support commissioners and contractors to develop clinical services that utilise point of care testing (POCT) in community pharmacy settings. This is part of a Five-Year CPCF agreement to explore the use of POCT to help support efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/point-of-care-testing-in-community-pharmacies-guide/**

**HEE workforce survey results published**

Health Education England (HEE) has published the results of the community pharmacy workforce survey undertaken in early 2021. These results provide a snapshot of the community pharmacy workforce in spring 2021 and will help HEE and partners to inform future planning and investment decisions. HEE is now working with stakeholders to repeat this data collection on an annual basis. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hee-workforce-survey-results-published/**

**IPC guidance still applies to pharmacies**

Following the Government's announcement earlier this week that from January 27th, face coverings will no longer be mandatory in public places, pharmacy teams are reminded that the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA's) infection prevention control (IPC) guidance will continue to apply to patients and staff in healthcare settings, including community pharmacy, to ensure that everyone is protected. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ipc-guidance-still-applies-to-pharmacies/**

January 2022 Price Concessions – 3rd Update

DHSC has issued its third update on the price concessions list for January 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-2022-price-concessions-3rd-update/**

**Expiry of SSP014**

The Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP), **SSP014**, for Salazopyrin 500mg EN-Tabs, has now expired. As such, prescriptions for Salazopyrin 500mg EN-Tabs should be dispensed in accordance with the prescription. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp014-for-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg/**

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2022**

Community pharmacy contractors and their teams are being asked to take part in PSNC’s latest Pharmacy Advice Audit in w/c 31st January 2022. The audit will once again ask pharmacy teams to record information about the informal healthcare advice that they are giving over the course of a single day (or until a minimum number of consultations is reached), with the results providing a critical temperature check on how people are continuing to rely on community pharmacies.

This is third Advice Audit that pharmacies have been asked to take part in, and the results will once again provide critical evidence for use in our funding discussions with HM Government and the NHS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-please-take-part-in-2022-audit/**

**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.