**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 6th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**32 products added to the February 2022 DND list**

Following applications made by PSNC to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), a further 32 new products will enter the list of ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND) in Part II of the Drug Tariff from**tomorrow (1st February).** Read more here:[**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/32-products-added-to-the-february-2022-discount-not-deducted-dnd-list/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/32-products-added-to-the-february-2022-discount-not-deducted-dnd-list/)

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2022: Please take part this week**

PSNC’s 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit is taking place this week, and we would be hugely grateful to anyone who is able to take part. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2022-please-undertake-this-week/**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Aspirin suppositories**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for Aspirin 150mg and 300mg suppositories. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-aspirin-150mg-and-300mg-suppositories/**

**Have you confirmed your choice of CPCS IT system?**

The national procurement of IT support for the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) is due to stop at the end of March 2022. Community pharmacy contractors that wish to continue providing CPCS must, therefore, confirm their choice of CPCS IT system by no later than **February 2022**. Failure to do so could impact referrals and service continuity. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-deadline-approaching-have-you-confirmed-your-choice-of-system-2/**

**NHS prescription services ‘Hints and Tips’ – Issue 46**

NHS Prescription Services produces a quarterly newsletter called "Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors". The latest edition contains some useful information and advice on the extension to the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS), digital NHS Prescription Prepayment Certificates, and more. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-46/**

**January video update from PSNC Policy Team**

A new video update from Mike Dent, PSNC’s Director of Pharmacy Funding, is now available to watch. Watch the video update here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-video-update-from-psnc-policy-team/**

**MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Ibuprofen 400mg tablets**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Class 4 Medicines Defect Information for 400mg tablets. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-ibuprofen-400mg-tablets-flamingo-pharma-uk-ltd/**

**January 2022 Price Concessions Final Update**

The final price concessions list has been published for January 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/january-2022-price-concessions-final-update/**

**PQS preparing to declare – additional FAQs published**

Following the announcement of the extension of the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) and the publication of the declaration questions**,**PSNC, working with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), has today published some additional questions and answers to help contractors make their PQS declaration. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-preparing-to-declare-additional-faqs-2/**

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Naprosyn tablets**

The MHRA has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for **Naprosyn EC 250mg Gastro-Resistant Tablets**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-naprosyn-tablets-all-strengths-naprosyn-ec-250mg-gastro-resistant-tablets-atnahs-pharma-uk-limited/**

**Extension to the PhAS review application window**

The review application window for the 2022 Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS) has been extended until **23.59pm on March 4th 2022**. By this date, any PhAS review applications must be completed on NHSE&I's dedicated web review portal. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/extension-to-the-pharmacy-access-scheme-review-application-window/**

**PQS declaration window is open**

The declaration window for the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) is now open. Community pharmacy contractors can make a claim for a PQS payment up until **11.59pm on Wednesday, March 2nd 2022**, through the NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA's) Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-declaration-window-is-open/**

**RTEC used 100 million times**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has announced that community pharmacy team members have performed over 100 million checks using the Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC) system. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/rtec-used-100-million-times/**

PQS: Issue with MYS declaration

PSNC is aware that there is currently an issue on Manger Your Service (MYS) when entering dates for the audit in Domain 1 and the antibiotic review in Domain 5. A fix is due to be implemented tomorrow (Saturday 5th February), meaning the portal will be unavailable between 7am and 9am. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-issue-with-the-mys-declaration/**

**PharmacyCollect: Additional LFD stock still available**

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) are continuing to deliver stocks of lateral flow device (LFD) test kits to Alliance Healthcare for onward delivery to pharmacies. Find out more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-additional-lfd-stock-still-available/**

**New PSNC CEO to take up post in March**

Janet Morrison OBE has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of PSNC. Janet will take up the post from 1st March 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-psnc-chief-executive-to-take-up-post-in-march/**

**Adjusted prices following price changes in January 2022**

During the month of January 2022, PSNC received many reports from contractors unable to obtain multiple products at the published Drug Tariff prices. PSNC submitted requests for a price concession but some were later withdrawn after confirmation from DHSC that, due to the price change mechanism, the reimbursement prices had been increased for these products for the month of January 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/adjusted-prices-following-price-changes-in-january-2022/**

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2022 extended**

PSNC has already had an exceptional response to our 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit: thank you to the pharmacies who have taken part this week. However, to ensure no pharmacy misses out on the chance to submit their data, we have decided to extend the participation deadline to **Friday 18th February**. The more pharmacies that take part in this audit, the stronger our evidence base will be. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2022-extended/**

**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.