**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 13th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Have you had an email about the antibiotic checklists from ESPAUR?**

PSNC has been alerted by the English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance (ESPAUR) that there is an error with the data that was sent in an email to some contractors about their antibiotic checklist submissions. This does not affect any contractors who started entering their TARGET antibiotic checklist data on the portal application after 3rd December 2021 or those that have not yet entered their data. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-have-you-had-an-email-about-the-antibiotic-checklists-from-espaur/**

**Have you completed the 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit yet?**

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that PSNC’s 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit is currently underway, and we would be hugely grateful to anyone who is able to take part. The findings from this audit will help demonstrate how pharmacies support their communities every day and assist PSNC in gathering critical evidence for use in our funding discussions with HM Government and the NHS. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-completed-the-2022-pharmacy-advice-audit-yet/**

**DoS Updater and NHS website editor to be replaced soon**

Contractors currently use two different NHS systems to ensure their pharmacy details are up to date in the NHS 111 Directory of Services (DoS) and on the NHS website: the NHS website profile editor and the DoS Profile Updater. Both of these tools are due to be replaced by a new tool, called **NHS Profile Manager**, which is scheduled for release in early March 2022. To prepare for this change, pharmacy contractors or team members should register for the new NHS Profile Manager with their personal NHSmail address as soon as possible. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-profile-manager-to-replace-dos-updater-and-nhs-website-editor-soon/**

**Over 9300+ contractors benefit from earlier advance payments in February**

Over**9,300**pharmacy contractors who declared their January 2022 FP34C submission figures through the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal by 5th February received earlier advance payments on Thursday 10th February 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-9300-contractors-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payments-on-10-february/**

**Further extension to SSP05**

The Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets (SSP05) has been extended to **Friday 13th May 2022**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/further-extension-to-ssp05-for-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets/**

**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.