**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 30th January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Pharmacy Collect: Additional LFD stock available**

The Pharmacy Collect team has told PSNC that pharmacy orders for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits in some locations have now decreased. As a result, they are able to work with Alliance Healthcare to supply extra stock to pharmacies still experiencing higher demand for test kits. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-additional-lfd-stock-available/**

**New SSP issued for Paracetamol suppositories**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Paracetamol 120mg or 240mg suppositories. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp-issued-for-paracetamol-120mg-240mg-suppositories/**

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2022 starts next week**

Community pharmacy contractors and their teams are reminded that PSNC’s third Pharmacy Advice Audit is due to be held in w/c 31st January 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2022-starts-next-week/**

**Medicine Supply Notification – Paracetamol suppositories**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for Paracetamol 120mg and 240mg suppositories. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-paracetamol-120mg-and-240mg-suppositories/**

**PQS Declaration questions published**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has published the questions which will be included in the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) declaration so community pharmacy contractors can view these ahead of making their declaration. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-declaration-questions-published/**

**Drug Tariff Watch – February 2022**

PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has created a summary of the Drug Tariff changes for February 2022. This includes details of additions, deletions and category and price changes. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-february-2022/**

**Secretary of State emergency declaration extension**

The declaration of an emergency requiring the flexible provision of pharmaceutical services which was introduced to help maintain pharmacy services during the COVID-19 outbreak, has been extended to 31st March 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/secretary-of-state-emergency-declaration-extension/**

**PQS declaration: Delay in opening portal**

The NHSBSA has announced that there will be a delay in opening the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal for the 2021/22 PQS declarations. The declaration window will now open at 3pm on Thursday 3rd February 2022 and close on **Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 11:59pm**. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-declaration-delay-in-opening-of-portal-2/**

**Funded IP training for community pharmacists**

Health Education England (HEE) has published details on their initial offer of funded Independent Prescribing (IP) courses for pharmacists. This offer will be suitable for community pharmacists who are already in a position to apply and meet the eligibility criteria and where applicable, have agreement from their employer to apply for this funding. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/funded-ip-training-for-community-pharmacists/**

**First Annual Review of CPCF paves way for Year 4 negotiations**

The first Annual Review of the progress of the five-year Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) deal has been concluded by PSNC, DHSC and NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/first-annual-review-of-cpcf-paves-way-for-year-4-negotiations/**

**EPS tokens and NCSO endorsement no longer accepted for SSP claims**

DHSC has confirmed that from February 2022, only the ‘SSP’ endorsement will be accepted to claim for any supplies made in accordance with a valid SSP. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-eps-tokens-and-ncso-endorsement-no-longer-accepted-for-ssp-claims/**

**Specials added to the new Part VIIID section of the Drug Tariff**

The Drug Tariff will include a new section, Part VIIID, from March 2022. This section will outline the payment arrangements for specials and imported unlicensed medicines to be paid relative to an identified pack size. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/specials-added-to-new-part-viiid-section-of-the-drug-tariff/**

**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.