**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 6th March*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**PQS: ESPAUR antibiotic checklist data published on NHSBSA website**

Contractors can now use a spreadsheet from the English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance (ESPAUR) to help determine whether they meet the Prevention domain of the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-espaur-antibiotic-checklist-data-published-on-nhsbsa-website/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-espaur-antibiotic-checklist-data-published-on-nhsbsa-website/)

**SSP014 reactivated**

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Salazopyrin 500mg EN-Tabs, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has reactivated the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for this product, SSP014. SSP014 provides that for every Salazopyrin EN-Tabs 500mg tablet originally prescribed, one Sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant (GR) tablet must be supplied. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ssp014-for-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-reactivated/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ssp014-for-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-reactivated/)

**Reminder: Specials added to new section of the Drug Tariff**

We would like to remind community pharmacy teams, that from March 2022, the Drug Tariff will include a new section, Part VIIID. This section will outline the payment arrangements for specials and imported unlicensed medicines (primarily unlicensed tablets/capsules) to be paid relative to a commonly identified pack size. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-specials-added-to-a-new-section-of-the-drug-tariff/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-specials-added-to-a-new-section-of-the-drug-tariff/)

**Submit FP34C through MYS by March 5th for earlier advance payment**

In order to secure earlier advance payments on the 10th March 2022, community pharmacy contractors are reminded of the requirement to submit FP34Cs through the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal byno later than the **5th March 2022**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/submit-fp34c-through-mys-by-5-march-for-earlier-advance-payment/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/submit-fp34c-through-mys-by-5-march-for-earlier-advance-payment/)

**Have you received your quit smoking campaign materials?**

Contractors should have by now received the campaign materials to participate in the mandated quit smoking health campaign. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-received-your-quit-smoking-campaign-materials/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/have-you-received-your-quit-smoking-campaign-materials/)

**Class 3 Medicines Recall**

The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 3 medicines recall for: Isotard 60mg XL tablets. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-3-medicines-recall-isotard-60mg-xl-tablets-kyowa-kirin/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-3-medicines-recall-isotard-60mg-xl-tablets-kyowa-kirin/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Sulfasalazine 500mg tablets**

DHSC has issued a medicine supply notification for Sulfasalazine 500mg tablets. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notfication-sulfasalazine-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-gastro-resistant-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notfication-sulfasalazine-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-gastro-resistant-tablets/)

**Medicine Supply Notification Update: Chloral Hydrate 143.3mg in 5ml oral solution**

DHSC has issued an update concerning the Medicine Supply Notification for Chloral Hydrate 143.3mg in 5ml oral solution. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-chloral-hydrate-143-3mg-in-5ml-oral-solution/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-chloral-hydrate-143-3mg-in-5ml-oral-solution/)

**NHSE&I on flu vaccines for 2022/23**

NHS England and NHS Improvement has published their flu vaccination reimbursement letter for the 2022/23 season. The letter provides information on the flu vaccines which will be reimbursable under the 2022/23 Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service, for the two cohorts (65 years and over and at-risk adults aged 18-64). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-letter-on-flu-vaccines-for-2022-23/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-letter-on-flu-vaccines-for-2022-23/)

**Update on primary care efforts to ensure ICS representation**

PSNC continues to work closely with the other primary care professions to ensure that the voice of primary care is heard – and fully considered – in the passage of the Health and Care Bill, which is currently making its way through Parliament. We are working with the British Dental Association, British Medical Association, Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee and National Community Hearing Association, to ensure parliamentarians are well informed of the primary care sector’s asks at every opportunity. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-primary-care-efforts-to-ensure-representation-in-integrated-care-systems-ics/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-primary-care-efforts-to-ensure-representation-in-integrated-care-systems-ics/)

**HEE want your help to plan pharmacist IP training**

Health Education England (HEE) is inviting community pharmacy contractors to a meeting to discuss training of pharmacists to become Independent Prescribers (IP). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hee-want-your-help-to-plan-pharmacist-ip-training/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hee-want-your-help-to-plan-pharmacist-ip-training/)

**DMS IT funding for Trusts**

NHSE&I is making funding available to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) so that all acute, community and mental health NHS trusts in England can support IT solutions or software licenses for the NHS Discharge Medicines Service (DMS). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dms-it-funding-for-trusts/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dms-it-funding-for-trusts/)

**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.