**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 20th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Pharmacy Advice Audit 2022: Still time to take part**

Community pharmacy teams are reminded to take part in PSNC’s 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit. The data gathered from this audit will help PSNC in its negotiations. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2022-still-time-to-get-involved/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-advice-audit-2022-still-time-to-get-involved/)

**New Medicine Supply Notification’s issued**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued Medicine Supply Notification’s for the following products:

* [**Acetazolamide 250mg modified-release capsules**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-acetazolamide-diamox-sr-250mg-modified-release-capsules/)
* [**Mesalazine 400mg and 800mg MR gastro-resistant tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-mesalazine-asacol-400mg-and-800mg-mr-gastro-resistant-tablets/)
* [**Dulaglutide 3mg/0.5ml and 4.5mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled pens**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dulaglutide-trulicity-3mg-0-5ml-and-4-5mg-0-5ml-solution-for-injection-pre-filled-pens/)
* [**Atorvastatin 10mg and 20mg chewable tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-atorvastatin-lipitor-10mg-and-20mg-chewable-tablets/)
* [**Locorten Vioform 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops solution (Update)**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-locorten-vioform-flumetasone-clioquinol-0-02-w-v-1-w-v-ear-drops-solution/)
* [**Piroxicam 20mg orodispersible tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-piroxicam-feldene-melt-20mg-orodispersible-tablets/)
* [**Ciprofloxacin 0.3% / dexamethasone 0.1% ear drops**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ciprofloxacin-0-3-dexamethasone-0-1-ear-drops/)

**February 2022 Price Concessions First Update**

The DHSC has published the initial list of price concessions for February 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-1st-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-1st-update/)

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall**

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued Class 2 Medicine Recalls for [**Water for Injections BP 100ml vial**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-water-for-injections-bp-100ml-vial-hameln/) and [**Efudix 5% w/w cream**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-efudix-5-w-w-cream-uni-health-distribution/).

**MHRA Drug Safety Update February 2022**

A new MHRA Drug Safety Update has been published. Articles include updated information on COVID-19 antivirals, vaccines and medicines, and more. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-february-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-february-2022/)

**Delivery of quit smoking campaign materials**

The Better Health quit smoking campaign is the last mandated campaign agreed for 2021/2022 by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and PSNC. Resources for the campaign will be delivered to community pharmacies via Yodel between 24th February and 28th February 2022. Contractors must participate in the campaign from 28th February until 31st March 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/delivery-of-quit-smoking-materials-for-last-mandatory-campaign-of-2021-22/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/delivery-of-quit-smoking-materials-for-last-mandatory-campaign-of-2021-22/)

**Encouraging patients to support the PANORAMIC study**

Community pharmacy teams are encouraged to help raise awareness about the PANORAMIC UK-wide clinical study. The study aims to find out if new antiviral treatments prevent those with COVID-19 from needing hospitalisation and help them recover from the virus quicker. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/encouraging-patients-to-support-the-panoramic-study/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/encouraging-patients-to-support-the-panoramic-study/)

**February 2022 Price Concessions Second Update**

The DHSC has published its second update on the price concessions list for February 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-2nd-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-2nd-update/)

**PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit deadline extended**

The deadline to complete PSNC’s Pharmacy Advice Audit has been extended until 23.59 on the 11th of March 2022 to give as many pharmacy teams as possible the chance to take part. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/more-time-to-take-part-in-advice-audit/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/more-time-to-take-part-in-advice-audit/)

**Australian exchange program for recently qualified pharmacists**

Pharmacists who recently qualified in the UK are being invited to apply for an exciting opportunity to experience community pharmacy in Australia. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/australian-exchange-programme-for-recently-qualified-pharmacists/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/australian-exchange-programme-for-recently-qualified-pharmacists/)

**End of paper FP34C submission document**

The last paper FP34C submission document will be posted out to community pharmacy contractors this month (February 2022). After this, contractors will no longer receive paper FP34C submission documents in the post and from April 2022 (i.e. for prescriptions dispensed from March 2022), the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal will be the **only**route available to contractors for submitting monthly FP34C submissions. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/end-of-paper-fp34c-submission-document/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/end-of-paper-fp34c-submission-document/)

**Guidance for pharmacy teams on the new Part VIID arrangements for specials**

From March 2022, the Drug Tariff will include a new section, Part VIIID, which sets out payment arrangements for specials and imported unlicensed medicines (mainly tablets and capsules) to be paid relative to commonly identified pack sizes. PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply team has developed a briefing and factsheet to help pharmacy teams understand these changes. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/guidance-for-pharmacy-teams-on-the-new-part-viiid-arrangements-for-specials/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/guidance-for-pharmacy-teams-on-the-new-part-viiid-arrangements-for-specials/)

**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.