**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 20th March*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Latuda film-coated tablets**

**The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for: Latuda film-coated tablets. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-latuda-film-coated-tablets-cnx-therapeutics-ltd/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-latuda-film-coated-tablets-cnx-therapeutics-ltd/)

**Inclusive Pharmacy Practice: Registration open for Population Health Management Webinar**

Community pharmacy teams are invited to a webinar on **Tuesday 26th April, 7-9pm**about how pharmacies can improve the health of their local population. Attendees are required to register in advance. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/inclusive-pharmacy-practice-registration-open-for-population-health-management-webinar/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/inclusive-pharmacy-practice-registration-open-for-population-health-management-webinar/)

**MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Beclometasone dipropionate 50 micrograms/dose Nasal Spray**

The MHRA **has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for: Beclometasone dipropionate 50 micrograms/dose Nasal Spray. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-beclometasone-dipropionate-50-micrograms-dose-nasal-spray-various-liveries/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-beclometasone-dipropionate-50-micrograms-dose-nasal-spray-various-liveries/)

**Requirement to update NHS website and DoS profile by end of March 2022**

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded of the Terms of Service requirement to ensure they verify and, where necessary, update the information contained in their NHS website profile **and** their Directory of Services (DoS) profile at least once each quarter of the financial year. For the current financial quarter, the deadline to complete this is **31st March 2022**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-requirement-to-update-nhs-website-and-dos-profile-by-end-of-march-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-requirement-to-update-nhs-website-and-dos-profile-by-end-of-march-2022/)

**DHSC consultation on hub and spoke dispensing published**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published its consultation on the proposals to enable all community pharmacies to access hub and spoke dispensing. The consultation is due to run for three months and will close on **June 8th, 2022**. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-consultation-on-hub-and-spoke-dispensing-published/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-consultation-on-hub-and-spoke-dispensing-published/)

**New SSP issued for Salazopyrin 500mg tablets**

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Salazopyrin 500mg tablets, DHSC has issued a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP), SSP018. Effective from 16th March, SSP018 provides that for every Salazopyrin 500mg tablet originally prescribed, one Sulfasalazine 500mg tablet must be supplied. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-issued-for-salazopyrin-500mg-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-ssp-issued-for-salazopyrin-500mg-tablets/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Diltiazem 90mg tablets**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Diltiazem 90mg tablets. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diltiazem-tildiem-retard-90mg-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diltiazem-tildiem-retard-90mg-tablets/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Diamorphine 100mg and 500mg powder for solution for injection ampoules**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Diamorphine 100mg and 500mg powder for solution for injection ampoules. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-100mg-and-500mg-powder-for-solution-for-injection-ampoules/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diamorphine-100mg-and-500mg-powder-for-solution-for-injection-ampoules/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Timolol 1mg/g gel eye drops 0.4g unit dose preservative free**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Timolol 1mg/g gel eye drops 0.4g unit dose preservative free. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-timolol-tiopex-1mg-g-gel-eye-drops-0-4g-unit-dose-preservative-free/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-timolol-tiopex-1mg-g-gel-eye-drops-0-4g-unit-dose-preservative-free/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Benperidol 250microgram tablets**

**DHSC** has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Benperidol 250microgram tablets. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-benperidol-anquil-250microgram-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-benperidol-anquil-250microgram-tablets/)

**Medicine Supply Notification: Oxybutynin 3.9mg/24hour transdermal patches.**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for **Oxybutynin 3.9mg/24hour transdermal patches. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification/)

**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-notification-sulfasalazine-salazopyrin-500mg-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-sulfasalazine-salazopyrin-500mg-tablets/)

**Contractor vote set to be held in May 2022, RSG confirms**

A timetable for the conclusion of the Review Steering Group’s (RSG) work to find ways to improve contractor representation and support has been announced. In an update to contractors, the RSG said it had reached consensus on a proposed way forward, and that it would publish proposals to the sector shortly after Easter, with a contractor vote expected to follow beginning late in May. PSNC Members are currently considering the RSG’s proposals as they are finalised. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-vote-set-to-be-held-in-may-2022-rsg-confirms/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-vote-set-to-be-held-in-may-2022-rsg-confirms/)

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Benzylpenicillin benzathine**

The MHRA **has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for: Benzylpenicillin benzathine 1.2 Million I.U. and 2.4 Million I.U. powder and solvent for suspension for injection. Read more here:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-benzylpenicillin-benzathine-1-2-million-i-u-and-2-4-million-i-u-powder-and-solvent-for-suspension-for-injection/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-benzylpenicillin-benzathine-1-2-million-i-u-and-2-4-million-i-u-powder-and-solvent-for-suspension-for-injection/)

**Update on pharmacy IT workstreams published**

The Community Pharmacy IT Group (CP ITG) has published its Pharmacy IT roundup for spring 2022 following the group's quarterly meeting earlier this month. The roundup includes updates on NHS Digital's Health Leadership Programme, NHS Profile Manager, Virtual Visits and more. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-pharmacy-it-workstreams-published-5/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-pharmacy-it-workstreams-published-5/)

**Pharmacy Collect: End of service preparations**

The last day on which the Community Pharmacy Lateral Flow Device Distribution Service, known publicly as Pharmacy Collect, will operate will be **31st March 2022**. After this date, free COVID-19 mass testing will end meaning contractors will no longer be able to legally distribute free NHS test kits. PSNC, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have been working together on the final plans for the end of the service and the UKHSA has now provided a checklist for contractors to use as a guide to support the closure of the service. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-end-of-service-preparations/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-end-of-service-preparations/)

**Contractor Notice: Expiry of SSP016 for Lipitor 10mg chewable tablets**

The SSP for Lipitor 10mg chewable tablets, SSP016, has now expired. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp016-for-lipitor-10mg-chewable-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.