**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 27th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Receive referred back and disallowed items digitally using MYS**

Contractors signed up to the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal can receive their referred back (prescription returns) and disallowed items digitally using the portal instead of these being received via the post from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/receive-referred-back-and-disallowed-items-digitally-using-mys/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/receive-referred-back-and-disallowed-items-digitally-using-mys/)

**Voluntary recall for Alimentum and Elecare powder formula**

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have notified that Abbott has issued a proactive voluntary [food standards agency recall](https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/alert/fsa-prin-11-2022) of some powder formulas – Alimentum and EleCare. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/voluntary-recall-for-alimentum-and-elecare-powder-formula-abbott/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/voluntary-recall-for-alimentum-and-elecare-powder-formula-abbott/)

**Expected changes to Pharmacy Collect Service**

The Government has announced plans to stop providing free COVID tests to most members of the public from 1st April 2022. This announcement will have implications for the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device (LFD) distribution service (known publicly as Pharmacy Collect). PSNC had already been discussing the various possible scenarios for the service with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) over recent weeks, ahead of ministerial decisions on the future of LFD supply. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/expected-changes-to-pharmacy-collect-service/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/expected-changes-to-pharmacy-collect-service/)

**Medicine Supply Notification**

DHSC has issued a Medicine Supply Notification for the following: Levomepromazine 25mg/1ml solution for injection. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-levomepromazine-25mg-1ml-solution-for-injection/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-levomepromazine-25mg-1ml-solution-for-injection/)

**Please support the Pharmacy Advice Audit**

PSNC is asking as many community pharmacy teams as possible to take part in the 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/please-support-the-2022-pharmacy-advice-audit/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/please-support-the-2022-pharmacy-advice-audit/)

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Naprosyn tablets**

The MHRA has issued a class 4 medicines defect information notice for Naprosyn 250mg, 500mg, and EC 500mg, tablets and Gastro-Resistant Tablets. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-naprosyn-tablets-all-strengths-naprosyn-ec-500mg-gastro-resistant-tablets-atnahs-pharma-uk-limited/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-naprosyn-tablets-all-strengths-naprosyn-ec-500mg-gastro-resistant-tablets-atnahs-pharma-uk-limited/)

**Closure of the Pandemic Delivery Service**

As part of removing the last of the COVID-19 domestic restrictions, the Government has confirmed that the Pandemic Delivery Service will be ending. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/closure-of-the-pandemic-delivery-service/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/closure-of-the-pandemic-delivery-service/)

**Living with COVID-19 – Update for contractors**

Following the publication of the new Government policy on 'Living with COVID-19', NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have today issued initial guidance to NHS service providers, including community pharmacy contractors. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/living-with-covid-19-update-for-contractors/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/living-with-covid-19-update-for-contractors/)

**Launch of a new PPE ordering portal**

In partnership with the NHS Supply Chain, DHSC is launching a new personal protective equipment (PPE) portal platform. Its launch will continue to ensure free access to PPE and related items for eligible users, including community pharmacy teams, until the end of March 2023. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/launch-of-a-new-ppe-ordering-portal/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/launch-of-a-new-ppe-ordering-portal/)

**Pharmacy Collect – Update for contractors**

Free mass testing for COVID-19 is due to end from 1st April 2022. Consequently, **31st March 2022**will be the last day that the Pharmacy Collect service will operate. PSNC, the UKHSA and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are working together on the final plans for the end of the service, which will be announced as soon as possible. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-update-for-contractors/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-update-for-contractors/)

**February 2022 Price Concessions Third Update**

DHSC has granted an updated list of price concessions for February 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-3rd-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-3rd-update/)

**Smoking Cessation Service start date announced**

The new Smoking Cessation Service (SCS) will officially commence on **10th March 2022**and contractors will be able to register to provide the service on the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal from 1st March 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smoking-cessation-service-start-date-announced/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smoking-cessation-service-start-date-announced/)

**Just one week left to complete PhAS 2022 review application**

Contractors eligible to apply for a Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS) review are reminded that they have until **midnight on 4th March 2022** to complete their applications on the dedicated NHSE&I web review portal. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/just-one-week-left-to-complete-pharmacy-access-scheme-2022-review-application/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/just-one-week-left-to-complete-pharmacy-access-scheme-2022-review-application/)

**Extension to several SSPs**

DHSC as confirmed the extension of several Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs):

**SSP number and product**

**Revised end date**

[**SSP015: Paracetamol 120mg & 240mg suppositories**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-ssp-issued-for-paracetamol-120mg-240mg-suppositories/)

4th March 2022

[**SSP016: Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/two-new-ssps-issued-for-lipitor-10mg-20mg-chewable-tablets/)

18th March 2022

[**SSP017: Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/two-new-ssps-issued-for-lipitor-10mg-20mg-chewable-tablets/)

30th March 2022

**Drug Tariff Watch – March 2022**

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply Team has published the March edition of the Drug Tariff Watch. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-march-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-march-2022/)

**CPCS IT deadline approaching: have you confirmed your choice of system?**

The national procurement of IT support for the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) is due to stop at the end of March 2022. Contractors that wish to continue providing CPCS must, therefore, confirm their choice of CPCS IT system as soon as possible. Failure to do so could impact referrals and service continuity. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-deadline-approaching-have-you-confirmed-your-choice-of-system-3/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cpcs-it-deadline-approaching-have-you-confirmed-your-choice-of-system-3/)

**Negotiations on CPCF arrangements for 2022/23 commence**

Formal tripartite negotiations on the arrangements for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) in 2022/23 – the fourth year of the agreed five-year CPCF deal – have now begun. The negotiations are taking place between PSNC and DHSC, supported by NHSE&I. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/negotiations-on-cpcf-arrangements-for-2022-23-commence/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/negotiations-on-cpcf-arrangements-for-2022-23-commence/)

**February 2022 Price Concessions Final Update**

DHSC has now granted the final list of price concessions for February 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-final-update/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2022-price-concessions-final-update/)

**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.