**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 3rd April*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**April 2022 Category M Prices Announced**

The Drug Tariff Category M pricelist for April 2022 has been published on the [NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff/drug-tariff-part-viii). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/april-2022-category-m-prices-announced/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/april-2022-category-m-prices-announced/)

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Accuretic 10/12.5 mg film-coated tablets**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for: Accuretic 10/12.5 mg film-coated tablets. Find out more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-accuretic-10-12-5-mg-film-coated-tablets-pfizer-limited/**

**Health and wellbeing online event**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) is holding an online event on Wednesday 6th April 2022 between 5-6pm about the current, dedicated health and wellbeing support offers available to colleagues working in primary care. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/health-and-wellbeing-online-event/**

**Introducing NHS Service Finder interactive maps**

The NHS Service Finder online search tool, which provides access to information from the Directory of Services (DoS) and the NHS website, has been upgraded. A new interactive maps feature provides a view of all relevant services in an area and offers directions. This information can also be shared directly with patients via SMS text message or email. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/introducing-nhs-service-finder-interactive-maps/**

**Standard Treatment Protocol for SCS published**

The National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) has published a bespoke Standard Treatment Programme, which has been commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement, for the national community pharmacy Smoking Cessation Service (SCS). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/standard-treatment-protocol-for-scs-published/**

**March 2022 Price Concessions: 2nd Update**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has granted an updated list of price concessions for March 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/march-2022-price-concessions-2nd-update/**

**Single Activity Fee to revert to £1.27 from April 1st**

The value of the Single Activity Fee will revert to £1.27 from 1st April 2022. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/single-activity-fee-to-revert-to-1-27-from-1st-april/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/single-activity-fee-to-revert-to-1-27-from-1st-april/)

**Updates to SSP014 Salazopyrin EN-Tabs 500mg and SSP017 Lipitor 20mg chewable tablets**

DHSC has provided updates on the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg (SSP014) and Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets (SSP017). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/updates-to-ssp014-salazopyrin-en-tabs-500mg-and-ssp017-lipitor20mg-chewable-tablets/**

**Drug Tariff Watch – April 2022**

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply Team has published the Drug Tariff Watch for April 2022. Find out more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-april-2022/**

**All FP34Cs through MYS only**

**The Manage Your Service (MYS) portal is now the only route available to contractors for all monthly FP34C submissions. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/all-fp34c-submissions-through-mys-only/**

**No change to prescription charges for April 2022**

DHSC has confirmed that the NHS prescription charge will **not** be uplifted on 1st April 2022. The NHS prescription charge is reviewed annually with changes usually made in April, but this year the Government has yet to conclude consideration of any future increases to prescription charges. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/no-change-to-prescription-charges-for-april-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/no-change-to-prescription-charges-for-april-2022/)

**Patient satisfaction survey: three mandatory topics for 2022/23**

The requirements for the community pharmacy patient satisfaction survey have been revised. PSNC sought these changes to address requests from contractors to have greater flexibility in the way they undertake surveys of patients' experience of pharmacy services. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/patient-satisfaction-survey-three-mandatory-topics-for-2022-23/**

**PQS: Anticoagulant audit data**

The NHSBSA has published a spreadsheet showing which community pharmacy contractors have currently submitted their anticoagulant data as part of the requirements of the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-anticoagulant-audit-data/**

**March 2022 Price Concessions: Final Update**

The final list of price concessions for March 2022 has been published. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/march-2022-price-concessions-final-update/**

**34 products added to the DND list from April 2022**

As a result of applications made by PSNC, 34 new products have now been added to the list of ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND). From April 2022, the discount deduction scale will no longer apply to prescriptions dispensed for these products. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/34-products-added-to-the-discount-not-deducted-dnd-list-from-april-2022/**

**Products reclassified as special containers from April**

Following representations from PSNC, DHSC has re-determined the special container status of nine drugs that meet the criteria as set out in the relevant Clause of the Drug Tariff. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-update-further-products-reclassified-as-special-containers-from-april-2022/**

**Charges for late submission of prescription forms**

From April 2022 (for prescriptions dispensed in March 2022), NHSBSA may apply an administrative deduction of £25 if a prescription bundle is submitted late to the relevant pricing division. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/charges-for-late-submission-of-prescription-forms/**

**COVID cost process – update of review and appeals process**

The Pre- and Post- Payment Verification (PPV) of contractors’ COVID-19 cost claims has been continuing. This process is being led by NHSBSA. Although the minority of contractors that have been audited have been paid in full, a few have had part of their claim disallowed by NHSBSA because of PPV. The information about how these contractors can dispute any unpaid amounts has been now finalised. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-cost-process-update-of-review-and-appeals-process/**

**PSNC issues guidance on unplanned pharmacy closures**

Following the end of the emergency provisions allowing for flexibility of pharmacy opening hours and temporary closures, PSNC has published new guidance to support community pharmacy contractors. From today (1st April 2022), as the Government moves to its next stage in the pandemic recovery, the normal pharmacy Terms of Service rules and requirements around unplanned closures of community pharmacies have resumed. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-issues-guidance-on-unplanned-pharmacy-closures/**

**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.