**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 10th April*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**New pharmacy system receives EPS accreditation**

NHS Digital has confirmed that a new Patient Medication Record (PMR) system called *V-Rx* has been granted Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) accreditation. Learn more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-pharmacy-system-receives-eps-accreditation/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-pharmacy-system-receives-eps-accreditation/)

**Referred back and disallowed items going fully digital via MYS from July 2022**

From July 2022 (for the dispensing month of June 2022), Manage Your Service (MYS) will be the only route available to community pharmacy contractors to view and submit the required information for all referred back and disallowed items. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/referred-back-and-disallowed-items-going-fully-digital-via-mys-from-july-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/referred-back-and-disallowed-items-going-fully-digital-via-mys-from-july-2022/)

**Almost 4.8 million flu vaccinations administered by community pharmacy during 2021/22**

Community pharmacy teams have proved once again that they can deliver by administering almost 4.8 million flu vaccinations under the NHS Flu Vaccination Service in 2021/22 – 73% more than the 2.8 million vaccines administered last season. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/almost-4-8-million-flu-vaccinations-administered-by-community-pharmacy-during-2021-22/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/almost-4-8-million-flu-vaccinations-administered-by-community-pharmacy-during-2021-22/)

**Contractor notice: expiry of SSP017**

The Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Lipitor 20mg chewable tablets, SSP017, has expired. Any prescriptions for this product must now be dispensed in accordance with the prescription. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-expiry-of-ssp017-for-lipitor-20mg-chewable-tablets/**

**Arrivals from Ukraine: advice for primary care**

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have issued guidance to primary care professionals about how to address the health needs of patients ordinarily resident in Ukraine who have arrived in the UK in response to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/arrivals-from-ukraine-advice-for-primary-care/**

**Extension to Hep-C testing service agreed**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and PSNC have agreed that the Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing (Advanced) Service should continue to be commissioned until 31st March 2023. The service was originally planned to conclude at the end of last month. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/extension-to-hep-c-testing-service-agreed/**

**Over 10,700 contractors benefit from earlier advance payments in April**

Over 10,700 pharmacy contractors who declared their March 2022 FP34C submission figures through the MYS portal by 5th April 2022 received earlier advance payments on 11th April 2022 (circa 20 days earlier than the normal advance payment timetable). These contractors will receive a letter from NHSBSA regarding these payments. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-10700-contractors-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payments-on-11-april/**

**Help improve access to pharmacy education and training**

Health Education England (HEE) is working to improve access to pharmacy education and training and has commissioned an engagement exercise to discuss experiences. Pharmacy undergraduates, foundation trainees and recently qualified pharmacy professionals from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities or those experiencing potential barriers are invited to attend a series of online workshops. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/help-improve-access-to-pharmacy-education-and-training/**

**New PSNC website launched**

We are pleased to announce that the new PSNC website is now live and in its final testing phase. For a period of several weeks starting today, on entering the PSNC website visitors will be invited to either continue using the existing site or to switch to using the new site instead. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-psnc-website-launched/**

**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.