**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 1st May*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Pharmacy Pressures Survey confirms impact on teams, businesses and patients**

PSNC’s Pharmacy Pressures Survey has confirmed that the unsustainable pressures on community pharmacies are having a serious impact on pharmacy teams’ wellbeing, affecting patient services negatively, and putting businesses at risk. Read more:[**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-pressures-survey-confirms-impact-on-teams-businesses-and-patients/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-pressures-survey-confirms-impact-on-teams-businesses-and-patients/)

**NHSE&I publishes Remote Consultations Guide for Pharmacy**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has published a Remote Consultations Guide for Pharmacy Teams. This guide aims to support contractors that are either planning to conduct or are already conducting remote consultations with patients. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-publishes-remote-consultations-guide-for-pharmacy/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsei-publishes-remote-consultations-guide-for-pharmacy/)

**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Paroxetine 40mg Film Coated Tablets**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for Paroxetine 40mg Film Coated Tablets (Crescent Pharma Limited) PL 20416/0363. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-paroxetine-40mg-film-coated-tablets-crescent-pharma-limited/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-2-medicines-recall-paroxetine-40mg-film-coated-tablets-crescent-pharma-limited/)

**Learn more about the DHSC, CMU and SPS Medicines Supply Tool**

To help community pharmacy teams to learn how to use the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC's) online Medicines Supply Tool, which was jointly developed with NHS England and NHS Improvement's (NHSE&I') Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU) and with Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS). SPS is holding a webinar on **5th May 2022** between **1pm and 2.15pm**. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/learn-more-about-the-dhsc-cmu-and-sps-medicines-supply-tool/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/learn-more-about-the-dhsc-cmu-and-sps-medicines-supply-tool/)

**Drug Tariff Watch – May 2022**

PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has created a summary of the Drug Tariff changes for May 2022. This includes details of additions, deletions and category and price changes. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-may-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-may-2022/)

**NHS prescription charges to remain at £9.35 per item until further notice**

The NHS prescription charge is reviewed annually with changes usually made in April, however, this year the Government has yet to conclude consideration of any future increases to prescription charges. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-charges-to-remain-at-9-35-per-item-until-further-notice/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-charges-to-remain-at-9-35-per-item-until-further-notice/)

**Submitting FP34Cs for earlier advance payment**

As a result of the early May bank holiday (2nd May 2022), contractors have an extra day (i.e. until the end of 6th May) to submit their FP34C declaration through the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal for NHS pharmaceutical services delivered in April 2022. Contractors are also required to dispatch their prescription bundle to the relevant pricing division at the NHS Business Services Authority by 6th May. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-submit-fp34c-through-mys-by-6-may-for-earlier-advance-payment/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-submit-fp34c-through-mys-by-6-may-for-earlier-advance-payment/)

**April 2022 Price Concessions Final Update**

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

**Three new SSPs introduced for HRT medicines**

In response to a significant ongoing disruption affecting three Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines, DHSC have issued three new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs). Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/three-new-ssps-introduced-for-hrt-medicines/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/three-new-ssps-introduced-for-hrt-medicines/)

**Pharmacy Representation Review: PSNC Reaction to RSG Proposals**

The Review Steering Group (RSG) has published its [**proposals**](https://pharmacy-review.org/contractor-proposals/) for the future of community pharmacy contractor representation and support. The proposals make 37 recommendations for the future of PSNC and the LPCs which the RSG says have been written to strengthen governance, better align with the NHS, appropriately resource representatives, and strengthen collaboration. The RSG has made 23 proposals regarding PSNC alone, and 10 for PSNC to consider jointly with the LPCs. There are 6 recommendations for LPCs to consider. Contractors are being asked to consider the proposals and then vote on them during a **three-week** voting period beginning in the week commencing **23rd May**. Contractors are also being invited to attend one of a series of events being run by the RSG which can be booked onto [**here**](https://pharmacy-review.org/events/). The Chief Executive of PSNC, Janet Morrison, will be attending the national RSG events on **Tuesday 3rd**and **Wednesday 4th May**– following requests from LPCs and contractors to hear from PSNC on this topic. PSNC strongly encourages contractors to engage with the RSG’s work by reading the full proposals and attending an engagement event. Recognising the significant current pressures on contractors, PSNC also welcomes the wide range of engagement options available including the Executive Summary of the proposals, animations and other communications. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-representation-review-psnc-reaction-to-rsg-proposals/**

**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.