**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 24th April*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**MHRA Drug Safety Update – April 2022**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has published a new Drug Safety Update containing updates on the findings of a safety study on the risks of Pregabalin useduring pregnancy, COVID-19 vaccines, medicines recalls and more. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-april-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-april-2022/)

**PSNC factsheet about NHSmail on mobile devices**

PSNC has published a factsheet for community pharmacy teams explaining how to access the shared NHSmail inbox within the Outlook mobile app. The app provides quick and easy access to NHSmail, and enables contractors to choose how and when they would like to be notified about incoming emails. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-factsheet-about-nhsmail-on-mobile-devices/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-factsheet-about-nhsmail-on-mobile-devices/)

**Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Depo-Medrone with Lidocaine 40 mg/ml**

Pfizer Limited have informed the MHRA that an outdated version of the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) has been included in the packaging of specified batches of this product. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-depo-medrone-with-lidocaine-40-mg-ml-1-ml-and-2-ml-vials-pfizer-limited/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/class-4-medicines-defect-information-depo-medrone-with-lidocaine-40-mg-ml-1-ml-and-2-ml-vials-pfizer-limited/)

**Annual Flu Letter for 2022/23 published**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have published the annual flu vaccination programme letter for the 2022/23 flu vaccination season. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/annual-flu-letter-for-2022-23-published/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/annual-flu-letter-for-2022-23-published/)

**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.