**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 12th June*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Medicine Supply Notification: Hydrocortisone 2.5mg Muco-Adhesive Buccal Tablets**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for **Hydrocortisone 2.5mg Muco-Adhesive Buccal Tablets. Read more:** [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-hydrocortisone-2-5mg-muco-adhesive-buccal-tablets/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-hydrocortisone-2-5mg-muco-adhesive-buccal-tablets/)

**Updated IPC guidance published**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has published a letter to support NHS service providers, including community pharmacy contractors, to interpret the updated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance that has been published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). UKHSA updated its UK IPC guidance with new COVID-19 pathogen-specific advice for health and care professionals. This advice should be read alongside the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM). Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/updated-ipc-guidance/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/updated-ipc-guidance/)

**Over 10,700 pharmacies to benefit from earlier advance payments on 13th June**

**10,752**pharmacy contractors who declared their May 2022 FP34C submission figures through the [Manage Your Service (MYS) portal](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=21eec16ba1&e=b3c36abde4) **by 7th June 2022**received**earlier advance payments on 13 June** (circa. 20 days earlier than the normal advance payment timetable). Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-10700-pharmacies-to-benefit-from-earlier-advance-payments-on-13-june/**

**PSNC submits response to hub and spoke consultation**

PSNC has submitted its response to the proposals set out in the DHSC’s consultation on hub and spoke dispensing. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-submits-response-to-hub-and-spoke-consultation/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-submits-response-to-hub-and-spoke-consultation/)

**Hypertension Case-Finding Service highlighted in RCGP C-19 recovery guidance**

As part of recovery plans following COVID-19, the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) has produced [**guidance**](https://www.rcgp.org.uk/covid-19/latest-covid-19-guidance-in-your-area.aspx) for clinicians working in general practice, which sets out suggested actions for consideration to support long-term condition management over the next six months. Among the suggestions is for clinicians to consider signposting patients with cardiovascular disease to the Hypertension Case-Finding Service (also known as the Community Pharmacy Blood Pressure Check Service), as part of the wider system to support blood pressure checks. Read more: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-highlighted-in-rcgp-c-19-recovery-guidance/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-highlighted-in-rcgp-c-19-recovery-guidance/)

**Smartcard deadlines approaching: is your card due for renewal soon?**

Community pharmacy team members are encouraged to check the expiry date of their NHS Smartcards and if the expiry date is approaching, to ensure that they renew it in advance of the expiry date. Read more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/smartcard-deadlines-approaching-is-your-card-due-for-renewal-soon/**

**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.