**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 26th June*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**June 2022 Price Concessions First Update**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has granted the initial list of price concessions for June 2022. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/june-2022-price-concessions-1st-update/**

**Use of FS endorsement for free supply of COVID-19 trial treatments**

DHSC has published [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prescription-charges-waiver-heal-covid-and-stimulate-icp/waiver-of-prescription-charges-for-heal-covid-and-stimulate-icp-clinical-trial-platforms) for prescribers and community pharmacy teams on the correct**use of ‘FS’ endorsement on NHS prescriptions (FP10 or EPS) to enable free supply of certain COVID-19 trial medicines to patients participating in either the**[HEAL-COVID](https://heal-covid.net/)**or the**[STIMULATE-ICP](https://www.stimulate-icp.org/)**clinical trial platforms. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/use-of-fs-endorsement-for-free-supply-of-covid-19-trial-treatments/**

**Let’s communicate cancer training**

The British Oncology Pharmacy Association’s (BOPA) Let’s Communicate Cancer training has now been added to the Health Education England e-learning for healthcare website. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/lets-communicate-cancer-training/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/lets-communicate-cancer-training/)

**MHRA Drug Safety Update: June 2022**

A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update (Vol 15 Issue 11 June 2022) has been published. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-june-2022/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-drug-safety-update-june-2022/)

**Reminder: Data Security Toolkit: guidance & on-demand webinar available**

PSNC previously published guidance to help community pharmacy contractors to complete the 2021/22 Data Security and Protection Toolkit. The Toolkit is used to make a pharmacy’s information governance (IG) declaration and must be completed **by** **30th June 2022.**However, PSNC recommends that contractors complete the Toolkit as soon as possible. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-data-security-toolkit-guidance-on-demand-webinar-available/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-data-security-toolkit-guidance-on-demand-webinar-available/)

**Refresh your knowledge on handling EPS technical issues**

Contractors are reminded that PSNC has produced a suite of guidance for contractors about what to do if they experience a technical problem with an EPS prescription in the Digital and Technology section of our new website. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-refresh-your-knowledge-on-handling-eps-technical-issues/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-refresh-your-knowledge-on-handling-eps-technical-issues/)

**CPPE launches new genomics learning gateway**

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a new Genomics learning gateway, to coincide with Health Education England’s (HEE) #GenomicsConversation week. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/cppe-launches-new-genomics-learning-gateway/**

**RSG vote paves way for changes to PSNC and LPCs**

The Review Steering Group (RSG) has announced that the thresholds for its contactor vote on the future of PSNC and the LPCs have been met.The RSG reports that **68.3%** of the sector (contractors representing 7,601 ODS Codes) took part in the vote, and that **88.6%** of those voting (6,732 votes) did so in support of the RSG’s proposals. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/rsg-vote-paves-way-for-changes-to-psnc-and-lpcs/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/rsg-vote-paves-way-for-changes-to-psnc-and-lpcs/)

**Contractor notice: New Account Identifier Document for submission of paper prescriptions**

From August 2022 (for July 2022 prescriptions), contractors will no longer need to print and submit a paper copy of their completed FP34C declaration. Instead, the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will post out a paper Account Identifier Document to pharmacies, along with the usual red separators and pharmacy address labels each month. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-new-account-identifier-document-for-submission-of-paper-prescriptions/**

**MPs call out unsustainable pressures on pharmacies**

MPs from across the political spectrum called for increased funding for community pharmacy in a parliamentary [debate](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-21/debates/c4dd8dd5-357d-4884-a722-062b620d5cb9/WestminsterHall) on 21st June, on the future of community pharmacies. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mps-call-out-unsustainable-pressures-on-pharmacies/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mps-call-out-unsustainable-pressures-on-pharmacies/)

**Company Led Medicines Recall: Linoforce granules**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a company-led drug recall for Linoforce granules (A.Vogel Ltd). Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/company-led-medicines-recall-linoforce-granules-a-vogel-ltd/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/company-led-medicines-recall-linoforce-granules-a-vogel-ltd/)

**New NHS Profile Manager tool for updating DoS & NHS website launches**

A new tool has been launched to help community pharmacy contractors update their pharmacy’s details in the NHS 111 Directory of Services (DoS) and on the NHS website. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-nhs-profile-manager-tool-for-updating-dos-nhs-website-launches/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-nhs-profile-manager-tool-for-updating-dos-nhs-website-launches/)

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

**Pharmacy contractors are reminded that, from July 2022 (for the dispensing month of June 2022), all new prescription returns/referred back items and disallowed items will be received through the** [Manage Your Services (MYS)](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/manage-your-service-mys)**portal and MYS will be the only route available to view and submit required information for all these 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/)

**GPhC publishes duty of candour resources**

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has published new resources to help pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to fulfil their professional responsibility to be open and honest with patients when something goes wrong – known as the duty of candour. Read more here: [**https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/gphc-publishes-duty-of-candour-resources/**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/gphc-publishes-duty-of-candour-resources/)

**Pharmacies in England provide 65 million consultations a year**

More than 1.2 million consultations a week – or 65 million a year – are now being carried out by community pharmacy teams in England, according to PSNC’s 2022 Pharmacy Advice Audit. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacies-in-england-provide-65-million-consultations-a-year/**

**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.