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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Wednesday 1st December 2021 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: Pharmacy bodies raise workforce concerns; mandatory face coverings reintroduced; C-19 LFD distribution reminder; materials to encourage staff respect; submit end-of-month claims via MYS.High level talks under way on workforce shortageThe chief executives of the national community pharmacy bodies in England met with senior NHS England and NHS Improvement officials in October, to discuss the current limited availability of pharmacists for community pharmacy roles, which has led to difficulties maintaining services and temporary closures in some instances.NHS England's director for primary care, Ed Waller, and chief pharmaceutical officer Keith Ridge held talks with leaders from across the pharmacy sector, including representatives from PSNC, on 28th October. The topics ranged from the new roles for pharmacists in primary care, an increasing trend towards locum work, decreased participation in permanent roles and temporary staff absence during the pandemic.[**Read the joint statement from AIM,CCA, NPA and PSNC**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e130d8e965&e=d19e9fd41c)Updated IPC guidance and face coverings mandatory againFollowing changes to regulations, the wearing of face coverings in shops, including community pharmacies, is once again mandatory in England.The UK Health Security Agency also updated the UK-wide infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance last week, with a continuing recommendation that pharmacy staff wear a face mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Contractors can continue to order personal protective equipment (PPE) free of charge from the Government portal.[**Read the updated guidance**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=4fe55f27b7&e=d19e9fd41c)C-19 LFD Distribution Service reminderFollowing changes to Government guidance on COVID-19 testing, pharmacy contractors are encouraged to review stock levels of lateral flow device (LFD) test kits and, where there is space to store additional cartons in the pharmacy, consider placing additional orders to ensure their pharmacy teams can meet demand for test kits over the next couple of months. Contractors are reminded that they can order one carton of test kits each day (Monday to Saturday).[**Find out more about the C-19 LFD distribution service**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=72d5be22af&e=d19e9fd41c)New Primary Care Staff Respect MaterialsIn recognition of the increasing abuse and violence that primary care teams now regularly face, the NHS has published a suite of downloadable materials and guidance for use by primary care staff to encourage patients to treat NHS staff with respect.[**Download the staff respect materials**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d9a074427b&e=d19e9fd41c)Submit end-of-month claims via MYS by 5th December to secure earlier advance paymentContractors can now submit their claims for NHS pharmaceutical services delivered in November 2021 by submitting their FP34Cs through the [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=fb763a136f&e=d19e9fd41c) between 1st-5th December. To secure access to **earlier advance payments on 9th December** (for November 2021 prescriptions), contractors must submit their FP34Cs through MYS by the end of **Sunday** **5th December**.Contractors who submit their November FP34C figures **late** through MYS (after 5th December) or continue to declare using the **paper FP34C submission document** will **NOT** receive earlier advance payments and instead, will receive their advance payments in accordance with the normal payment timetable i.e. on 31st December 2021.[**Learn more and see PSNC's guidance**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ad8e13f3a6&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee   **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** 14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQTel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: **info@psnc.org.uk**  |
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