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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Friday 17th 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: Update on LFD supply to pharmacies; PSNC presses for larger C-19 booster role and LFT resolution; PSNC responds to OPD consultation; medicine supply notices.Update on LFD supply to pharmaciesThis morning the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) briefed PSNC on the latest situation regarding the availability of NHS Test and Trace Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) to pharmacies.Unfortunately, the continuing high-level of demand for tests means the UKHSA has exceeded its stock allocation for LFDs to be supplied via pharmacies this week, with no further test kits available to deliver to Alliance Healthcare distribution centres this morning. This means most pharmacies will not have received a delivery of test kits today. The UKHSA are working to arrange further deliveries of test kits to Alliance Healthcare over the next few days, so more stock will be available to distribute to pharmacies on Monday (20th December) and throughout the week, providing more than the normal weekly allocation of stock. At PSNC’s request, the UKHSA have today issued a poster which pharmacies can print off and display when they are out of stock of test kits.[**Find out more and download the out of stock poster**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9bc0e43cd1&e=d19e9fd41c)**Evaluation of LFD tests**This month (December 2021), UKHSA will be sending some pharmacies, via Parcel Force, cartons of 15 combined COVID testing kits (containing both a standard LFD pack along with one polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test). A part of ongoing assessments of LFD test kits, this evaluation involves citizens taking a PCR test alongside one of their LFD tests and sending it to a lab for testing.[**Learn more about the evaluation**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=a1a328dd66&e=d19e9fd41c) PSNC presses for larger COVID booster role and LFT resolutionPSNC has this week reiterated its desire to see more pharmacies approved as COVID vaccination centres in discussions with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the national media. In these conversations, we have made clear that pharmacies are the logical place to deliver boosters if these are to become business as usual. On Thursday, [**The Telegraph**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9aa1544a79&e=d19e9fd41c) reported PSNC’s view that the NHS had made a tactical error in rejecting many thousands of applications from pharmacies.On a separate COVID issue, PSNC has also been speaking to the national media about the situation regarding lateral flow tests. We have been very concerned to hear of the abuse that some pharmacy teams have faced from people anxious to obtain tests, and were keen to get across the message that any supply issues are not the fault of pharmacy teams. Our conversations on this led to a front-page story in [**The Telegraph**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9230374405&e=d19e9fd41c) on Wednesday, followed by a story in [**iNews**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=58168d1f2c&e=d19e9fd41c), also picked by [**The Mirror**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=43adefdba5&e=d19e9fd41c) on Thursday.[**Read more about our media work on these issues**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=98542f0832&e=d19e9fd41c) PSNC submits response to DHSC consultation on OPDPSNC has submitted its response to the proposals set out in the Department of Health and Social Care’s consultation on Original Pack Dispensing (OPD) and supply of medicines containing sodium valproate.The response indicates that PSNC broadly supports appropriate changes to the regulations to enable OPD, as anticipated in the Five-Year Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) deal, and includes several comments and observations, such as the proposed 10% discretion may be insufficient to allow community pharmacies to make full use of OPD.[**Read PSNC's consultation response**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=767486b5c2&e=d19e9fd41c) Medicine supply notices**Availability of Upjohn UK Limited products**Due to a change in the distribution model of Upjohn UK Limited (“Upjohn”) products community pharmacy teams are being advised to ensure they have stock levels of Upjohn UK Limited products to cover any demand until the end of December 2021. [**Learn more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=51cc962810&e=d19e9fd41c)**Extension to SSP014**The Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for **Salazopyrin 500mg EN-Tabs, SSP014**, has been extended until **Friday 14th January 2022**.[**Find out more about this SSP**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9940304349&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee**Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated**14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQTel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: **info@psnc.org.uk** |
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