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| PSNC News Alert |
| Thursday 26th August 2021 |

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|  | Early advance payments for contractors following end to PEPS; Extra PQS info published in Drug Tariff; PQS quality criterion starting 1st September; C-19 LFD distribution service extended.Early advance payments for all contractors following an end to PEPSFollowing agreement between PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), all community pharmacy contractors will have the chance to receive earlier Advance Payments from **November 2021**. Advance Payments will be made approximately **20 days earlier** than the current payment timetable for contractors who make their monthly FP34C submissions through the [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=a83f39264f&e=d19e9fd41c) by the 5th of the month.The agreement came as part of discussions on the Pharmacy Earlier Payment Scheme (PEPS), which DHSC decided to end following the collapse of Greensill Capital. The option to receive earlier payments (for prescriptions dispensed from October 2021 onwards) should benefit all contractors, whether or not they had taken advantage of the PEPS. It has also been agreed that the paper FP34C submission document will no longer be available from April 2022 at which point MYS will be the only route for all monthly submissions.PEPS pharmacy contractors should note that the **final PEPS payments** will be paid on **1 October 2021** and from **1 November**, a 12-month transition arrangement has been agreed for existing PEPS pharmacy contractors to transfer over to the new earlier Advance Payment timetable available to all contractors from November 2021.PSNC will be holding a webinar for contractors to explain the changes and offer further practical support. Further details about this webinar will be made available in due course.[**Read more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=803da82315&e=d19e9fd41c) PQS: Additional information published in the Drug Tariff Today, the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) published the [**September 2021 Drug Tariff**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=0feef38741&e=d19e9fd41c), which contains further detail on the 2021/22 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) requirements in Part VIIA. PSNC has updated its [**PQS hub page**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=62ac82227d&e=d19e9fd41c) to reflect the additional information that has now been published on the Scheme, and resources and FAQs to support contractors will continue to be added to this page.NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) will publish their PQS guidance shortly; PSNC will alert contractors through the usual communication channels when this is available.PQS quality criterion starting from 1st September 2021Following publication of the September 2021 Drug Tariff, community pharmacy contractors should note that the ‘Inhaler disposal’ quality criterion, part of the Respiratory domain for the 2021/22 PQS, will need to be implemented from **1st September 2021**. PSNC has produced a range of resources to support contractors to meet this criterion.[**Download these resources**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=3a394d0901&e=d19e9fd41c)COVID-19 LFD distribution service extendedFollowing discussions with NHS Test and Trace, NHSE&I has today confirmed an extension of the period of commissioning of the Community Pharmacy COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Distribution Service (Pharmacy Collect). This service will now continue to be commissioned until **30th September 2021**.A review of the current service specification has also been completed, and NHS Test and Trace, the  DHSC, and NHSE&I, along with PSNC, are presently finalising the details of some changes to the service, which will be introduced later this year.[**Read more about the current service requirements**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2f67bfbfe2&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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