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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | |  | | PSNC Newsletter | | Wednesday 8th December 2021 | | |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |  | 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: December Policy Team blog; mandatory face coverings reminder; December Drug Tariff Watch; promoting pharmacy during the pandemic.December Policy Team blog In the latest PSNC Policy Team blog, Alastair Buxton, Director of NHS Services at PSNC reflects on the PSNC Committee meeting late last month and on the difficult situation facing contractors and community pharmacy teams currently. Alastair reaffirms PSNC's position that the sector needs further investment and help to free up capacity.  The blog also reflects on the important role that community pharmacies are playing in delivering COVID-19 vaccinations and more widely to support the booster campaign.  [**Read the December Policy Team blog**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=02b995529c&e=d19e9fd41c) Face coverings mandatory again in community pharmacy Following changes to regulations last week and the extension of measures as outlined in tonight's Number 10 press briefing, pharmacy teams are reminded that the wearing of face coverings in shops, including community pharmacies, is once again mandatory in England.  Contractors can continue to order face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) free of charge from the Government’s PPE portal.  [**Learn how to order free PPE**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=fc87092af4&e=d19e9fd41c) Drug Tariff Watch - December 2021 PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has created a summary of the Drug Tariff changes for December 2021. This includes details of additions, deletions and category and price changes.  It is important to monitor the monthly changes to Part VIII and Part IX of the Drug Tariff as these can impact on reimbursement. For example, if a drug moves from Category C to Category A, certain claims such as Broken Bulk or out of pocket expenses may no longer be permitted, and any inaccurate or missing endorsements can lead to delayed payments.  [**View the December 2021 Drug Tariff Watch**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=14c16c5ea6&e=d19e9fd41c) 2020/21: Promoting Pharmacy A key aspect of PSNC's role is communicating with audiences outside of pharmacy – such as politicians, charities, and national media – to build support and gain advocates who can champion the sector on our behalf.  During 2020/21, PSNC conducted audits to calculate the value of the informal patient consultations that happen in community pharmacy, worked with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Pharmacy to launch an inquiry into the pressures of COVID-19 on the sector, and collaborated with other healthcare bodies to call for a national self-care strategy. You can learn more about PSNC’s work to promote pharmacy in our Annual Report.  [**See PSNC's annual report online**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=22b39d86e6&e=d19e9fd41c)  [**Watch the annual report through video**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=10cc7591c9&e=d19e9fd41c) |  | |  |  |  | | |
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