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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Monday 24th January 2022 |

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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: PSNC Pharmacy Pressures Survey; POCT in community pharmacy guide; expiry of SSP014; ****FAQs on the Hypertension Case-Finding Advanced service.****Is your pharmacy under pressure?Last week, PSNC launched two surveys to gather more data on the pressures that everyone working in community pharmacy is under and the impact that this is having. We want to hear from pharmacy team members as well as business owners and head office representatives.The results of these surveys will be used in our ongoing discussions with NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and will help us to continue to make pharmacy’s case in conversations with MPs and other external stakeholders.[**Complete PSNC's Pharmacy Pressures Survey**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=256245c5ef&e=d19e9fd41c) Point of care testing in community pharmacies guideNHSE&I has published guidance to support commissioners and contractors to develop clinical services that utilise point of care testing (POCT) in community pharmacy settings. This is part of a Five-Year CPCF agreement to explore the use of POCT to help support efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance.[**Read the POCT guidance**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=711948dfba&e=d19e9fd41c) Expiry of SSP014The Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP), **SSP014**, for Salazopyrin 500mg EN-Tabs, has now expired. As such, prescriptions for Salazopyrin 500mg EN-Tabs should be dispensed in accordance with the prescription.[**Read PSNC's top tips for submitting SSP claims**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=123ceb0771&e=d19e9fd41c)

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| Have you seen our latest FAQs? |

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams, and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions on the **Hypertension Case-Finding Service** include:**Q. Will any equipment be provided to support the service?****A.** The responsibility of purchasing equipment to provide the service sits with the contractor.**Q. Is there any reimbursement for the purchase of the equipment as the set-up fee does not cover equipment costs?****A.** The incentive fees that have been negotiated as part of the service are intended to help contractors fund the capital cost of purchasing a suitable clinic BP meter and an Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor(ABPM). Pharmacies **must** reach a threshold of ABPM activity each year to trigger the payment of the incentive fee.**Q. If general practice refers a patient for a blood pressure check, do we have to provide both stages of the service?****A.** Where a patient is referred from general practice for a blood pressure check, then contractors should provide a clinic blood pressure check. The provision of ABPM would then only be required where it is clinically indicated because of a high clinic blood pressure in a previously undiagnosed patient.If the referral is specifically for an ABPM, then a clinic blood pressure check is **not** required as this will have been conducted at the practice. Contractors should only claim for the service stages that they have provided.Further information can be found on PSNC's [**Hypertension Case-Finding Service webpage**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=7df3510cc8&e=d19e9fd41c). |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee  **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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