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| PSNC News Alert |
| Friday 20th May 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.Ten more SSPs issued for HRT medicinesIn response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of some Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a further **ten** new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs).Following the [**three HRT SSPs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=db5a972bb4&e=d19e9fd41c) issued at the end of April 2022, the ten new SSPs, introduced with immediate effect, allow community pharmacists to consider different options to enable continued supply of HRT medicines to mitigate the ongoing supply disruptions affecting certain HRT medicines.Depending on the prescribed quantity of the affected HRT medicines, the protocols allow pharmacists to either supply a reduced quantity of the same HRT medicine, substitute with a specific alternative product or provide a reduced quantity of a specific alternative product.For each SSP, DHSC has included specific patients counselling points that must be taken into account when deciding whether supply in accordance with an SSP is suitable for a patient. Pharmacists will need to call on their clinical expertise to determine which SSP is the most appropriate to use in each scenario and to counsel patients on any changes made to their treatment and what it means for their medicine regimen.Pharmacy teams are advised to **read the documentation in full for all SSPs published on the** [**NHS Business Services Authority’s website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=0d65e624ad&e=d19e9fd41c) **and implement the protocols with immediate effect**.DHSC has confirmed that the endorsement guidance for the new SSPs is currently being developed and will be added to the NHSBSA’s website shortly.[**Read more about the HRT SSPs and support for their implementation**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=53eef59ede&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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