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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Friday 12th August 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: Ongoing medicine supply issues; recent PSNC Briefings; CP ITG responds to NHS IT consultation; RTEC FAQs. Ongoing medicine supply issuesPSNC is increasingly concerned about the sustained pressures on medicines supply and the very serious impact that this is having on community pharmacy teams and their patients. You may have seen [**recent national media coverage**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=94b15bb851&e=d19e9fd41c) where we highlighted the immense pressure this is putting pharmacy staff under.As part of our work in this area, we are asking contractors and their teams to continue using our regular [**reporting tools**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=979ac029b8&e=d19e9fd41c) to help us to demonstrate the scale of the problems to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and to support escalations as needed. We have also recently updated our guidance for contractors, including providing some practical tips. [**Read about PSNC's work in this area and our practical tips for contractors**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=588e8a5969&e=d19e9fd41c)New PSNC briefings PSNC regularly publishes briefings on key topics for contractors. Here are some of the most recent PSNC briefings:[**Pharmacy opening hours for the remainder of 2022 and in 2023**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2b2f1213e2&e=d19e9fd41c) Providing guidance for community pharmacy contractors on the Terms of Service opening hours requirements around bank holidays for the remainder of 2022 and 2023.[**Understanding prescription returns and disallowed items**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=8569c0871b&e=d19e9fd41c)This briefing describes the process by which prescriptions are returned or ‘referred back’ to pharmacies for further information, as well as why some items may be disallowed.[**How the price concession system operates**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=43ae7f9686&e=d19e9fd41c)This factsheet explains how the price concession system works, as well as answering some common queries received from community pharmacy contractors and their teams.[**Emergency closure checklist for community pharmacy**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=c199ecf03c&e=d19e9fd41c)This briefing details the actions which should be undertaken if an emergency situation means a pharmacy needs to close for a short period. CP ITG consultation response on NHS digital transformationThe Community Pharmacy IT Group (CP ITG), of which PSNC is a member, has submitted a formal response to the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into ‘Digital Transformation in the NHS’.The inquiry is exploring the current use of digital technology within the NHS and is examining changes that could result in improved service delivery and patient outcomes. In its response, the CP ITG has argued that pharmacy teams should have access to up-to-date records information and a framework for the development of pharmacy IT should be developed.[**Read the CP ITG's Inquiry response**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=f010d1e37a&e=d19e9fd41c) RTEC FAQs publishedFollowing the rollout of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) functionality for Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC) to more community pharmacies, PSNC has published a series of FAQs that answer some of the common queries on this topic.[**Read the RTEC FAQs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=accdbabe18&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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