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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Wednesday 15th March 2023 |

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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: Spring Budget brings long-awaited VAT changes for pharmacy services; PSNC election reminder; dispensing and supply notices.Budget brings VAT changes but no wider relief for pharmacyThe Chancellor has announced his Spring Budget today, including within it two VAT changes related to community pharmacy services, which PSNC had been pressing for over several years and was a focus within our CPCF negotiations.From 1st May 2023, Government will extend the VAT exemption on healthcare to include medical services carried out by pharmacy staff directly supervised by pharmacists. This will help as pharmacy businesses try to make better use of the skill mix within pharmacies now and in the future. Later this year, the Government will also extend the zero rate on prescriptions to medicines supplied to patients through Patient Group Directions.But the Budget brought no further relief for community pharmacy, and this must be corrected when Government publishes its Primary Care Recovery Plan, which is expected in the coming weeks. PSNC has this week told Government that it cannot afford any new services in 2023/24, nor a Pharmacy Quality Scheme, and that it must put further funding into the sector through a fully funded Pharmacy First service or via other mechanisms.**In response to the Budget, Janet Morrison, PSNC CEO has said:**"PSNC has been fighting for changes to these VAT rules for many years so it's great to see this work finally come to fruition. While small in impact in the context of the current challenges, this is a very welcome development.But it's become depressingly predictable that community pharmacy will be overlooked in the Chancellor's Budget statements, but never has this been a bigger missed opportunity than today. It's particularly insulting that some organisations are being given help with energy bills, but not our network of pharmacies."[**Read the statement in full**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=7e4f2a49ff&e=d19e9fd41c)PSNC Elections – Just over a week left to make your voteElections for the non-CCA Multiple Representatives and Regional Representatives started on 9th March. Voting contractors were sent an email to either the head office contact or premises shared NHSmail address detailing who is standing for election and a unique link to the voting portal.We are asking contractors to make their vote as soon as possible before the deadline of **12 noon on 24th March**.Any questions about your vote or the process should be submitted promptly via the webform available at [**psnc.org.uk/elections**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=3cf17123c6&e=d19e9fd41c). Please note that late questions might not be processed by Civica. [**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=068ce3e415&e=d19e9fd41c)Dispensing and Supply updates**Redetermination for Mebeverine 50mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that Mebeverine 50mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (300ml) will have a redetermination due to late notification of a price increase; this will apply from December 2022 to February 2023. PSNC has raised concerns with DHSC about the accuracy of certain product and pricing information held on the medicines database (dm+d), and we are in discussions about improvements to its maintenance. [**Read more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=f9248dc2bc&e=d19e9fd41c)**MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Pholcodine-containing products**The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for all pholcodine-containing products (from various marketing authorisation holders). Following the conclusion of a review of post-marketing safety data by the MHRA, all pholcodine-containing medicines are being recalled and withdrawn from the UK as a precaution. [**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ef756c3a2d&e=d19e9fd41c)**March 2023 Price Concessions First Update**DHSC has granted an initial list of price concessions for March 2023. [**See the March Price Concessions list**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d36f30bbe0&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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