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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Wednesday 26th April 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: Supporting national influencing work; PSNC meeting summary; EPS call for feedback; Directions updated for some Advanced Services; Dispensing and Supply Updates.Supporting national influencing work PSNC is continuing to work hard both through our public political work and behind the scenes to ensure that Government and the NHS understand the pressures on pharmacy and act to resolve them.In the short-term, the Government's upcoming Primary Care Recovery Plan is the most likely vehicle through which any extra monies could come and we have been working for many months to influence this following our bid for a fully-funded Pharmacy First service and for a funding uplift in March 2022. While the content of the Recovery Plan is now very likely decided, this influencing work is ongoing as we also work towards our longer-term strategic objective of laying the groundwork for the next CPCF. It is critical that we help Government to understand the dire situation of community pharmacy and what we need to survive long-term. We are continuing to encourage and work with MPs to write to the Health Secretary and take other actions. Earlier today, [**Sir George Howarth MP asked a question in Prime Minister's Questions**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=500592afed&e=d19e9fd41c)**,** noting the worrying issue of pharmacy closures and the need for more support for the sector. Thanks to everyone who has already supported this critical work - this must continue, and below we set out some of the latest resources for LPCs and pharmacists to use to help with this work. **Pharmacy Pressures Survey**PSNC recently published the results of the 2023 Pharmacy Pressures Survey which showed the extent of the pressures that the sector is now under. The results have been shared with MPs at a national level, but it is important they hear about them from as many sources as possible and that we continue to ask MPs to take action on behalf of pharmacies. Template briefings, letters to MPs and other resources are all available on the PSNC website. We would be grateful to anyone who can continue to highlight the findings to MPs, including local information and examples, and asking MPs to raise questions in the House, write to Ministers and the Secretary of State, or seek debates on behalf of community pharmacy. [**Read more and download resources**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=1a6a46d7b9&e=d19e9fd41c) Additional copies of #SaveOurPharmacies posterAs part of the ongoing **#SaveOurPharmacies campaign**, further copies of the window poster are being distributed to community pharmacies in England.The #SaveOurPharmacies campaign is a joint programme of work by PSNC, CCA, AIM and the NPA to lobby for fair NHS funding for pharmacies in England. Your contribution is key to help raise awareness among the public, so please keep an eye out for the poster.A full range of campaign resources are also available for pharmacy teams to use via the [**#SaveOurPharmacies campaign website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ceb23ae5de&e=d19e9fd41c). [**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ecea5680f6&e=d19e9fd41c) PSNC Meeting SummaryPSNC met in London in April. This was the first meeting of the smaller new Committee (soon to be known as Community Pharmacy England) and included inductions and briefings on key issues and projects.PSNC members were largely focused on their ongoing deep concerns about the funding crisis affecting pharmacy owners, as the sector’s finances and capacity are in a critical state, and the fact that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England have run out of money for new pharmacy services and other new contractual requirements.[**Read the summary of the Committee Meeting**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e4bd237945&e=d19e9fd41c)Survey: EPS outcomes and trackabilityPSNC, working with Kingston University and the Community Pharmacy IT Group (CP ITG), has launched a short survey to gather feedback about EPS Paperless, Outcomes and Trackability.The short survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete. If you are able to spare a little time, your responses will be used to help shape the EPS priorities of the CP ITG and system suppliers.[**Please complete the survey here**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d6abb58ce7&e=d19e9fd41c)Directions updated to enable pharmacy technicians to perform some Advanced ServicesPharmacy technicians can now perform blood pressure checks as part of the Hypertension Case-Finding Service and deliver the Smoking Cessation Service (SCS).The Drug Tariff has been amended, where necessary, to reflect this and includes the amendments to The Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Amendment) (England) Directions 2023. [**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e02c0ee687&e=d19e9fd41c)Dispensing and Supply Updates**April 2023 Price Concessions Third Update**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has granted an updated list of price concessions for April 2023. [**See the April Price Concessions list**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2f86d8b6d2&e=d19e9fd41c)**SSP issued for Paracetamol 240mg suppositories**In response to a significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Paracetamol 240mg suppositories, a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) was issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 17 March 2023. **The SSP may be amended or revoked at any time but currently expires on 5th May 2023 – PSNC will update contractors on any changes.**[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=4d5b5f2eb6&e=d19e9fd41c)**The below SSPs are set to expire on Friday, 28th April 2023** * [**SSP029**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=011ae747db&e=d19e9fd41c) – **[Sandrena® 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d56df4942b&e=d19e9fd41c" \t "_blank)**
* [**SSP032**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=71bd4a5ef9&e=d19e9fd41c) – [**Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablet**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=fefe032941&e=d19e9fd41c)
* [**SSP053**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=929d49270e&e=d19e9fd41c) – [**5ml of Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d9a129c799&e=d19e9fd41c)
* [**SSP054**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ed5df03acf&e=d19e9fd41c) – [**5ml of Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2060cb09aa&e=d19e9fd41c)

Pharmacists should ensure they are looking at the latest version of the SSP and endorsement guidance on the [**NHSBSA website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=f1999667f2&e=d19e9fd41c). |  |
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