



Daily Update

Tuesday 7th July 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: Pharmacy Advice Audit reminder; quota reporting form.

PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit: Please submit your data

Community pharmacy teams have until **10th July 2020** to capture information about the advice they give to their patients and local communities, and submit that data to PSNC via PharmOutcomes.

The PSNC Pharmacy Advice Audit will help demonstrate the added value pharmacies offer and assist us in providing evidence to support the ongoing funding negotiations, including our call for more investment in the sector.

[Click here for further information and audit resources](#)

Did you know you can report quota restrictions to PSNC?

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that they can now report supply issues linked to drug quota restrictions to PSNC via a [simple online form](#). Your reports will help support our representation of these issues to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Healthcare Distribution Association (HDA) and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI).

PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has been supporting DHSC in its work to monitor the unprecedented demand for medicines since the COVID-19 outbreak and address supply issues where possible. We will use the reports submitted via the [quota reporting form](#) to evidence the range of issues affecting pharmacies and their patients as part of the wider discussions with DHSC, HDA and ABPI about drug quota allocations.

[Find out more about PSNC's work to address supply problems](#)

Have you seen our latest COVID-19 related FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on a regular basis.

Recent additions include:

Q. What actions have been taken to ensure pharmacies have access to reasonable stocks; considering our increased dispensing volume and the need to supply within a reasonable timeframe?

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) recently responded to a question on accessing stock:

"The country is well prepared to deal with any impacts of COVID-19 and we have stockpiles of generic drugs in the event of any supply issues or significant increases in demand. The Department is working closely with industry, the National Health Service and others in the supply chain to help ensure patients can access the medicines they need, and precautions are in place to reduce the likelihood of future shortages. The Government has no plans to create facilities in the United Kingdom to manufacture further active pharmaceutical ingredients. There are 16,000 medicines on the market in the UK. Whilst some of these are manufactured in the UK, most are manufactured abroad. Where medicines are manufactured here, the active ingredients and excipients for those medicines may be manufactured abroad. It is not realistic to manufacture all 16,000 medicines and the active ingredients and excipients needed for these medicines in the UK."

As you may know the Government has already [banned the export of a number of medicines](#). The restrictions came into place on 3rd October 2019 as part of efforts to prepare for a possible no-deal Brexit and the list of drugs under export ban has continued to grow. PSNC remains in regular contact with DHSC Supply team to share information and discuss any current or expected supply issues so DHSC can monitor and take appropriate action, where necessary.

NHSE&I and DHSC have issued [guidance to practices](#) that changes should not be made to the duration of prescriptions, this advice is important to ensuring access to stock for those who need it.

Q. How can PSNC become faster at dealing with price concession issues, especially now where there so many price increases and drug shortages?

PSNC are actively monitoring reports received of pricing over Tariff through the [pricing issues reporting tool](#) and continuing to receive these reports is essential to our work negotiating price concessions. Given the unprecedented pressure pharmacy contractors and their staff are under, we have urged DHSC to exercise more flexibility in determining price concessions quickly and responsively given the number of drugs reported to have been affected by price hikes, updating our requests for lines to be considered throughout the month. We have raised with DHSC the increased volume of lines being reported and the impact the pricing has on cashflow. Reports regarding shortages, through the new [shortage reporting tool](#) are highlighted to DHSC to investigate. [Our briefing details how the price concession system operates.](#)

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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