



Daily Update

Wednesday 22nd 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: negotiations on pharmacy COVID-19 funding; APPG membership announced.

Negotiations on pharmacy COVID-19 funding

As announced earlier this month, negotiations on high-level community pharmacy costs and funding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have formally begun.

Although negotiations on specific COVID-19 issues such as the delivery service and Bank Holiday openings have been ongoing, higher-level funding negotiations are now underway following HM Treasury officials' consideration of PSNC's business case and the ongoing data being submitted by the sector.

The formal negotiations process could last many more weeks and during that time PSNC remains bound by HM Government confidentiality rules. Once any position has been agreed in principle it will be for the full PSNC Committee to decide whether it is acceptable to the sector, and we will update contractors as soon as we can.

APPG elects new chair and officers

The All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) has held its Annual General Meeting, where former health minister Jackie Doyle-Price, Conservative MP for Thurrock, was elected as the new Chair.

Baroness Cumberlege, Lord Clement-Jones and Julian Sturdy, Conservative MP for York Outer, remain as officers of the Group and have been joined by a host of new MPs elected at the 2019 General Election, including the Labour MP for Coventry North West, pharmacist Taiwo Owatemi.

In the year ahead, the APPG will continue to engage with topical and pressing issues affecting pharmacy, including the sector's response to COVID-19 and how it can help tackle winter pressures.

[Learn more about the reconstituted APPG](#)

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.

[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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