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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Monday 12th December 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: National press coverage on antibiotics supply and pharmacy pressures; weight management campaign; Medicine Supply Notice for Strep A antibiotics; MHRA Drug Safety Update.PSNC press coverage: Antibiotics supply and pharmacy pressuresPSNC's Chief Executive Janet Morrison appeared on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme this morning to discuss the ongoing disruption to antibiotics supply and the impact this is having on the community pharmacy sector. Janet highlighted the difficulties pharmacy teams have encountered when trying to get hold of antibiotics. She also described how unfair drug pricing must not leave pharmacies to make up the shortfall between what the Government pays for medicines and the prices that wholesalers and suppliers are now charging.PSNC and the other national pharmacies bodies also provided information to a number of national journalists over the weekend, including [**The Sunday Times**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=507702e4ee&e=d19e9fd41c), the [**Financial Times**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e3df519629&e=d19e9fd41c), and the [**Mail on Sunday**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e8ec0a4313&e=d19e9fd41c).**Pharmacy pressures**PSNC also continues to take all opportunities to raise awareness of the critical pressure on community pharmacy patient services and the need for a funding uplift. Janet Morrison appeared on Sky News on Saturday talking about the funding crisis affecting the sector. [**Read more about the recent pharmacy press coverage**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=a660bf7f6f&e=d19e9fd41c)Mandatory weight management campaign in JanuaryNHS England and PSNC have agreed that contractors will only have to participate in one mandatory national health campaign for 2022/23. This campaign will be on weight management and will start on Tuesday 3rd January and run until Sunday 29th January 2023. Contractors can order pharmacy specific posters, wallet cards and a dispenser for these cards on the [**Campaign Resource Centre website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=3f189eed00&e=d19e9fd41c) or use the digital campaign resources available on the site. A [**guidance leaflet**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=94098db02b&e=d19e9fd41c) to support community pharmacy teams’ conversations with patients is also available. Pharmacy teams are required to proactively discuss weight management with a minimum of 25 patients and refer at least four patients (who meets the criteria for referral) to either a Local Authority funded tier 2 weight management service or the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme as part of the Healthy living support domain of the 2022/23 Pharmacy Quality Scheme. Pharmacy teams could, therefore, use the campaign materials as conversation starters to assist them with meeting these requirements.[**Learn more about the weight management campaign**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e113ee82c3&e=d19e9fd41c) Medicine Supply Notification: Antibiotics for the treatment of Group A StrepThe Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for Antibiotics for the treatment of Group A Strep. This states that supplies of these antibiotics have seen a surge in demand and may be temporarily in limited supply, but deliveries are being expedited and are expected in the coming days. PSNC has warned the Department about the very serious impact this issue is having on pharmacies. In addition, we have pressed DHSC to think broadly about what measures could help to manage the current crisis.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=18b1aa3401&e=d19e9fd41c)MHRA Drug Safety Update: December 2022A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update has been published including articles on Valproate, COVID-19 vaccines and medicines and more. [**Read the December MHRA Drug Safety Update**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=dd9b6148c3&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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