



Daily Update

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

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

In today's update: PSNC Budget response; changes to EPS token submission.

PSNC Budget response

In response to the announcement of the Budget today by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP, PSNC Chief Executive, Simon Dukes said:

"HM Government states that it has provided £63 billion for frontline health services during the pandemic, yet it has still not taken this opportunity to commit to paying pharmacies the £400m that they have spent in responding to COVID-19. Nor have we had any signs that the NHS wishes to give pharmacy its fair share of the health service's pandemic funds. This is exasperating and disappointing. Community pharmacies are part of the NHS and are the primary entry point into the NHS for many millions of people – they offer unpaid healthcare advice to more than 48 million people every year, alongside dispensing the medicines that keep so many people healthy and out of hospitals. Pharmacies have spent their emergency COVID-19 loans on staying open so that their local communities could continue to rely on them throughout the pandemic, receiving critical NHS services in a COVID-safe environment. Pharmacies must have these costs for running NHS services fully covered: PSNC cannot accept any less, and we will continue to press this point."

Ahead of the Budget, PSNC had been working with the media and Parliamentarians, asking the Chancellor to intervene in the ongoing COVID-19 funding negotiations and to ensure that pharmacies do not have to pay back any of the £370m in emergency loans they received last year. This work will continue in the coming weeks.

[Read PSNC's letter to the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP](#)

[Read The Times article: Pharmacies at risk of closure following demands to pay back COVID support](#)

[Read more about PSNC's call to write off C-19 loans](#)

Reminder: Changes to EPS token submission following the suspension of signature requirements

PSNC wishes to remind contractors that it is no longer necessary to submit EPS tokens (other than those used for SSP claims) to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) whilst the suspension of signature requirements remains in place and that they continue to ensure that any FP10 paper prescriptions forms are sorted into the correct patient charge groups.

[Learn more about the changes to EPS token submission](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams, and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. How do I provide the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) if I haven't got access to an IT system to make my clinical records?

The DMS service requirements say appropriate records must be made in the PMR or other suitable system, which could include PharmOutcomes, other IT systems, or paper records. Additionally, **summary information** needs to be reported to the **NHSBSA** as part of the contractor's claim via the **MYS portal**. As with other MYS claims, it will be possible for the data to be manually inputted into MYS in order to make a claim.

A DMS worksheet is available from our **main DMS webpage**, which can be used to make clinical records, including the necessary information which needs to be reported to the NHSBSA. Using this worksheet and annotating the patient's PMR, so all staff know they have had a DMS referral, will allow the service to be provided in line with the contractual requirements, where IT system functionality to make such records is not available to the pharmacy.

Q. What information do contractors have to report to the NHSBSA via MYS for each provision of DMS?

The **DMS summary information** has to be reported to the **NHSBSA** as part of the contractor's claim via the **MYS portal**. This data will help demonstrate the impact of the service, and it will be used by the NHS in its evaluation of the DMS. Additionally, the data will trigger the payment to the contractor for the provision of the service. A DMS MYS module has been built by the NHSBSA, and this will be added to MYS in time for contractors to make their first claims for the service in early March 2021.

If contractors use the PSNC DMS worksheet to make their clinical records for the service, they will also be recording all the information that they will need to add to MYS when the service is complete, and they make their claim.

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

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