



Daily Update

Monday 8th 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: National media coverage of pharmacy funding concerns; 'Your Representation, Your Say' event; expiry of SSP08; No Smoking Day 2021.

PSNC's pharmacy funding concerns featured in The Guardian

Following on from [PSNC's letter to the Chancellor about pharmacies' COVID loans](#), The Guardian today reported the risk of significant pharmacy financial issues and possible closures in England if the Treasury continues to insist that pharmacies repay some of the emergency loans that they were given to stay open during the pandemic.

The article follows PSNC analysis which shows that many pharmacy closures to date have been in deprived areas of the country where "pharmacies are sadly the most needed". The article also references PSNC's call to the Chancellor to write off pharmacies' COVID loans and draws attention to the important role that community pharmacies continue to play in the national COVID-19 vaccination effort.

[Read The Guardian article: Treasury's COVID loan demand 'putting pharmacies in England at risk'](#)

'Your Representation, Your Say' event

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded that a 'Your Representation, Your Say' event is taking place **tomorrow (Tuesday 9th March) at 7.30pm**.

This online session is being run by the community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG), which is taking forward work following the independent review into contractor representation and support. As well as providing an update on the group's work, the event will give contractors the opportunity to put their views forward and help shape how the RSG engages with contractors going forwards.

Please register via [the RSG website](#).

Last week some RSG members spoke with Chemist+Druggist magazine to outline the group's plans for engaging the sector over the next few months.

[Read the RSG interview with Chemist+Druggist](#)

Contractor notice: SSP08 due to expire

Following the implementation of SSP08, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that sufficient stock of Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg is now available to supply normal demand; as a result the SSP08 for Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg is due to expire at **23.55pm on Monday 8th March 2021 (today)**.

[Learn more about the expiry of SSP08](#)

Reminder: No Smoking Day 2021

PSNC wants to remind contractors that no smoking day is this coming **Wednesday, 10th March 2021**. No Smoking Day is a national campaign that encourages the nation's smokers to make a quit attempt. The day is an important opportunity for pharmacy contractors to engage smokers in their community and encourage them to quit and access local stop smoking support.

[Find out how your pharmacy can get involved](#)

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:

Our Patient Medication Record (PMR) system performs the Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC) check near the start of the dispensing process. Where 'RTEC yes' is confirmed on the prescription, is there a need to check again later if there is a gap between dispensing and supply to the patient?

No. There is no requirement for you to check a prescription's RTEC status twice. If there is a query from the patient, you can inform them that an RTEC check was performed earlier during the dispensing process which has 'stamped' the prescription as exempt.

My PMR system performed the RTEC check during the dispensing process and originally found 'RTEC unknown', but the patient now says they have recently become exempt, e.g. they have just purchased a pre-payment certificate or they have reached 60 years of age. What should I do?

There is the ability to re-perform (or override) the RTEC check so that the exemption status can be re-checked. This option is not intended to be used on a frequent basis but can be used for circumstances where 'RTEC unknown' was originally flagged but the patient has since become exempt. As explained in another FAQ, there is no requirement to perform an override if the prescription is already stamped as 'RTEC yes'.

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

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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