



# COVID-19 Update

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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

## **In today's update: PSNC CEO video on advice audit; heatwave advice for patients; Phenzelzine Sulphate supply disruption.**

### **PSNC CEO asks pharmacy teams to support advice audit**

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded a video message asking all community pharmacy teams to take part in the upcoming pharmacy advice clinical audit.

In the video, Simon highlights the importance of capturing data on informal patient consultations to press the Government and the NHS on the need for fair funding for the sector. He also says that this simple audit could be the start of a bigger project to track how patient behaviour changes over time.

[Watch the video](#)

### **Staying healthy in the heat – advice for patients**

As the current heatwave continues, the public may turn to community pharmacy teams for advice about staying well during the hot weather or to seek assistance when feeling unwell as a result of the heat.

PSNC has previously developed a summary infographic which may be used by community pharmacy teams to communicate relevant messages contained in the [Heatwave Plan for England](#) and the [NHS website guidance on how to cope in hot weather](#). Public health advice remains the same this year, despite the COVID-19 outbreak.

The PSNC infographic could be displayed in the pharmacy or printed out to be handed out to patients as appropriate.

[Click here to view the infographic](#)

### **Supply Disruption Alert: Phenzelzine Sulphate 15mg tablets (Nardil®)**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and Improvement (NHSE&I) have issued a supply disruption alert for **Phenzelzine Sulphate 15mg tablets (Nardil®)**.

Kyowa Kirin are the sole supplier of phenelzine 15mg (Nardil®) tablets in the UK. They have experienced ongoing manufacturing issues since August 2019. The resupply date was initially outlined as October 2019, which was delayed to March 2020 and now has been advised to be the end of 2021, at the earliest.

Previously, imported supplies of unlicensed phenelzine 15mg tablets were supporting the UK market, however, due to supply issues in other markets globally, these supplies have become limited. Supplies of unlicensed phenelzine 15mg capsule specials have become available.

### **Guidance for pharmacy teams**

Where prescribing of an unlicensed product is considered appropriate by the prescriber, a prescription must be issued with the wording '**Special Order**' next to the prescribed product to ensure that a pharmacy can dispense and be correctly reimbursed for a non-Part VIIIIB special.

Prescriptions for unlicensed imported products/specials **not** listed in Part VIIIIB of the Drug Tariff must be endorsed with the following information:

- Amount dispensed over pack size used;
- Invoice price per pack size from which the order was supplied **less** any discount or rebate;
- Manufacturers'/importers' MHRA licence number;
- Batch number of the product supplied;
- SP

[Further information is available here](#)

## **Other supply updates**

In addition to the above supply disruption alert, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has also shared supply a number of other supply updates, which can be found on the [PSNC website](#).

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. I am struggling to obtain generic medicines at a reasonable price, will I be adequately reimbursed?**

PSNC is keeping a close eye on the generic medicines affected by recent price hikes and is in discussions with DHSC on protection for pharmacies against sudden price rises. Where purchase prices are reported to be above the listed Drug Tariff prices, PSNC continues to make applications to DHSC for price concessions in the usual way. PSNC relies on contractor reports to make its application and we urge contractors to get in touch with us to report any supply issues by using the [online reporting form](#) to give us an accurate picture of developing issues.

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

**Keep up-to-date with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

---

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ  
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: [info@psnc.org.uk](mailto:info@psnc.org.uk)