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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | Daily Update | | Tuesday 30th 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: March CPN published; PCN Leads survey; price concessions final update; prescription charge increases; SSP05 and SSP009 extended; final March concessions. **March Community Pharmacy News (CPN)** The March 2021 edition of our CPN magazine is now available. Coinciding with the anniversary of the first lockdown, this issue provides information about the recent Westminster Hall debate on pharmacy and the new NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device distribution service. Other essential articles include changes to the Pandemic Delivery Service and the increase in prescription charges.  CPN also contains the PSNC CEO blog. This month the blog looks at the contribution that pharmacies have made to this season's flu vaccination programme and the potential for harnessing pharmacies for future vaccination efforts.  [**Read March's CPN**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=cd1ae39d1e&e=12757307a1)  **Survey for community pharmacy PCN Leads** PSNC would like to find out from community pharmacy Primary Care Network (PCN) Leads about their experience of meeting the PCN-focussed activities in the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Part 2 2020/21. We are therefore asking if community pharmacy PCN Leads could complete a short survey on the subject by 14th April 2021 to help inform PSNC's work.  [**Learn more about the PCN Leads survey**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9404a10b43&e=12757307a1) **Reminder: Prescription charge increases** PSNC wants to remind contractors that from 1st April 2021 the NHS prescription charge increases to [**£9.35 per prescription item**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=123d5b3a5f&e=12757307a1). PSNC has designed NHS Prescription Charge Cards to print and display in community pharmacies. PSNC has produced two versions (one colour and one black and white) of the 2021/22 charge cards as downloadable PDFs. For further information about preparing for the prescription charge increase see the FAQs section of this newsletter.  [**View the cards and related information**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=890557bf34&e=12757307a1) **Extension to SSP05 and SSP009** SSP05 for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets was previously expected to expire on 31st March 2021 but the end date has been further extended to 17th May 2021. Similarly, SSP009 for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules has been further extended to 17th May 2021.  [**Learn more about these SSPs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=731802e9fb&e=12757307a1) **March price concessions - final update** The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced today its final list of price concessions for March 2021.  [**See the full list of price concessions**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=bf43faf69a&e=12757307a1)   |  | | --- | | 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. Do I need to display a notice about the NHS prescription charge?**  Yes, it is part of the NHS Terms of Service to have an up-to-date notice about the NHS prescription charge displayed in the prescription reception area. For further information, please see the [**clinical governance premises approved particulars**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2b2ff932b3&e=12757307a1).  **Q. If a prescription was dispensed before 1 April but the patient does not collect items until after 1 April, should the patient pay the old or the new prescription charge rate?**  There is no national guidance on this issue so pharmacy staff will be required to exercise their professional judgement. Whatever decision is taken, pharmacy staff are advised to keep a record of the amount charged and the reasons for doing so on the PMR. Please note the prescription charge rate is not determined by the date that the GP has prescribed or signed the prescription form.  **Q. For EPS, how does the NHSBSA determine which prescription charge rate to apply if a paid prescription dispensed in March is submitted for payment in April?**  Any paid electronic prescriptions dispensed in March 2021 with an NHS prescription charge levied at the old charge rate (£9.15) will have a charge deduction of £9.15 applied by the NHSBSA if the Dispense Notification (DN) message is submitted before 31 March 2021 and the corresponding Claim Notification or Electronic Reimbursement Endorsement Message (EREM) is received by the NHSBSA by the end of 5 April 2021. Read more [**here**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=31041f06f2&e=12757307a1), about how paid electronic prescriptions are treated by the NHSBSA following a change to the prescription charge rate.  **Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page:**[**psnc.org.uk/coronavirus**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=b671e78d7a&e=d3dc5e7fbd) |  | | |
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