



Daily Update

Friday 14th August 2020

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

In today's update: endorsing non-Part VIII EPS items; end of Transition Period letter updated.

Endorsing non-Part VIII EPS items

PSNC and the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) have been receiving more contractor queries about electronic prescriptions endorsed without the necessary product and pack size information for drugs not listed in Part VIII of the Drug Tariff. This follows an increase in usage of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) which has occurred over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EPS prescriptions submitted without the necessary information lead to prescription returns (referred backs) and delays in payment.

The most common reason for EPS prescription returns is where the prescription was for a non-Part VIII product and the prescription hasn't been endorsed with a required invoice price e.g. for less common items for which NHSBSA holds no price.

When dispensing a drug that is not listed in Part VIII of the Drug Tariff, contractors are reminded the EPS message must include:

- the quantity dispensed (if different to the quantity prescribed);
- the pack size used; and
- the brand name or name of the manufacturer or wholesaler from whom the supply was purchased (if the order is in the 'generic' or pharmacopeial form).

[Learn more and see guidance on example EPS endorsing scenarios](#)

DHSC's end of Brexit Transition Period letter updated

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has updated its recent letter to manufacturers and suppliers about the continuity of supply of medicines and medical goods after the end of the Brexit Transition Period.

The amendments do not reflect changes in any of DHSC's plans, but rather adds mention of the Reasonable Worst Case Scenario (RWCS) that Government is using. This includes a risk of significant disruption across the short straits for 6 months following the end of the transition period, with a particular risk during the first 3 months.

To combat this, suppliers are encouraged to review their own logistics arrangements and consider the appropriateness of using existing supply chain routes during this period. From the Government side, a 4-year procurement framework for freight capacity for 'Category 1' goods, which includes all health supplies, was initiated in 2019 and remains in place. DHSC has also retained its express freight service arrangements to support the urgent movement of medicines and medical products if other measures experience difficulties.

Community pharmacy teams are also reminded that DHSC continues to ask healthcare providers to avoid local stockpiling over and above business as usual ahead of 31st December as it is unnecessary and could cause shortages in other areas. This includes advising patients that they do not need to stockpile medicines either.

[DHSC letter to medicine suppliers](#)

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. Where a symptomatic patient presents in the pharmacy and is unable to leave due to their medical condition, but the pharmacy does not have a closed area available for the patient to isolate in prior to the arrival of an ambulance, what should be done?

If, a person is too unwell to return home and there is no closed isolation area, the pharmacy may need to temporarily close to assist the patient and minimise the risk of transmission to other patients. The use of full personal protective equipment (PPE) – Type IIR mask, apron, eye protection and gloves – is necessary as detailed in the NHSE&I community pharmacy SOP to help to protect the wearer and avoid a close contact for the purposes of Test and Trace. All personal protective equipment should then be disposed of as clinical waste.

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

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

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