



# Daily Update

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

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

**In today's update: new GPhC guidance on staff training; price concession for Tolterodine; Macrogol 3350 oral powder price correction; September COVID-19 impact survey.**

## **New GPhC guidance for staff training takes effect**

Today, 1st October 2020, the new General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) [requirements for the education and training of pharmacy support staff](#) take effect, which the GPhC says are intended to provide assurance to everyone that pharmacy support staff have the training they need to carry out their roles effectively.

The new requirements support the [standards for registered pharmacies](#) which include the principle that staff are empowered and competent to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public and set out the education and training of support staff and the criteria for approval of appropriate courses.

[Learn more about the staff training requirements](#)

## **September 2020 price concession for Tolterodine 1mg tablets**

The [final price concession update for September 2020](#) was published by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) today, 1st October 2020. DHSC has brought to our attention an error in the final price granted for Tolterodine 1mg tablets. The published price of £8.74 for a pack of 56 is incorrect. PSNC understands that the September 2020 concessionary price for Tolterodine 1mg tablets will be re-determined by DHSC tomorrow. PSNC will communicate the new price to contractors as soon as it has been finalised.

## **October 2020 Drug Tariff price correction: Macrogol 3350 oral powder 8.5g sachets sugar free**

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has issued an [update](#) regarding a price correction for 'Macrogol 3350 oral powder 8.5g sachets sugar free' in the October 2020 [Drug Tariff](#). The Part VIIIA Basic Price or October 2020 should read **£39.85** instead of £49.85.

In the [NHS dictionary of medicines and devices \(dm+d\)](#), the list price of Macrogol 3350 oral powder 8.5g sachets sugar free (TransiSoft)<sup>®</sup> changed from £39.85 to £49.85 on 14<sup>th</sup> September. As per the [price change mechanism](#), the new reimbursement price should apply to prescriptions (branded or generic) dispensed from **November 2020 onwards**. Any

prescriptions dispensed and submitted for payment in September and October will be reimbursed at the old list price of £39.85.

[Read our news story in full](#)

## **COVID-19 operational pressures on independent pharmacies – September 2020 survey**

PSNC is collecting data on an ongoing basis to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on pharmacies in England. As part of this, we are asking contractors running independent pharmacies to fill out a monthly 'Temperature Check' survey looking at the various pressures on their pharmacy, and **the September 2020 survey is now open.**

If you run an independent pharmacy, we would be very grateful if you could [fill out the survey by clicking here](#). The questions can be [downloaded in advance](#) to help you collate your response before filling out the Survey Monkey questionnaire. **The survey is open until 23:59 on Wednesday 14th October.**

Data will be aggregated to help understand the pressures independent pharmacies are facing. Head Offices of larger groups have been contacted separately to collect data via AIM and CCA.

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. 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.

### **Q. How can PSNC become faster at dealing with price concession issues, if further drug price increases and supply issues are expected due to Brexit?**

PSNC is actively monitoring reports received of pricing over Tariff through the [pricing issues reporting tool](#) and continuing to receive these reports is essential to our work negotiating price concessions. Given the unprecedented pressure pharmacy contractors and their staff are under, we have urged DHSC to exercise more flexibility in determining price concessions quickly and responsively given the number of drugs reported to have been affected by price hikes, updating our requests for lines to be considered throughout the month. We have raised with DHSC the increased volume of lines being reported and the impact the pricing has on cashflow. Reports regarding shortages, through the new [shortage reporting tool](#) are highlighted to DHSC to investigate. [Our briefing details how the price concession system operates.](#)

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

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