



Daily Update

Wednesday 18th November 2020

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

In today's update: Pharmacy Representation Review update; additions to the parallel export ban list; drug safety update.

Independent Review Update: AIM, CCA and independents nominate members to Review Steering Group (RSG)

The Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies (AIM), the Company Chemists Association (CCA) and the NPA and PSNC Regional Representatives have appointed their representatives to the new community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG).

The RSG was **proposed by PSNC** as a group to oversee progress on work to strengthen community pharmacy contractor support and representation, as provided by LPCs and PSNC.

Following an independent review into this topic, PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes consulted with LPCs on draft Terms of Reference for a group who could further explore the findings of that independent review. AIM, CCA and the NPA and PSNC Regional Representatives were then asked to select representatives to form the group.

PSNC asked that members of the RSG were chosen fairly and transparently, and stressed that the group must keep contractors at the heart of this work and reflect and represent the diversity of views and businesses within our sector. LPCs were keen that the group heard from new voices.

The RSG is expected to convene later this year: it will have some urgent early priorities to address such as its contractor engagement plan, governance arrangements, and priorities for commissioning work and task groups. Contractors can expect an update early in 2021.

The list of those appointed to the RSG and further information about the group can be found on the [PSNC website](#).

Updates to the list of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have updated the list of medicines which must not be parallel exported from the UK.

From 7th November 2020, two medicines have been **added** to the list: Dabigatran etexilate and Semaglutide tablets.

[Learn more and view the parallel export ban list in full](#)

MHRA Drug Safety Update November 2020

A new Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Drug Safety Update (Vol 14 Issue 4 November 2020) has been published and includes articles on:

- **Modafinil (Provigil):** increased risk of congenital malformations if used during pregnancy
- **Pirfenidone (Esbriet):** risk of serious liver injury, and updated advice on liver function testing
- **Ferric carboxymaltose (Ferinject ▼):** risk of symptomatic hypophosphataemia leading to osteomalacia and fractures
- **Bupropion (Zyban):** risk of serotonin syndrome with use with other serotonergic drugs
- **Isotretinoin (Roaccutane ▼):** contribute to expert review
- **Letters and drug alerts sent to healthcare professionals in October 2020**

[View the Drug Safety Update](#)

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. Why haven't services such as NMS been suspended for the duration of the pandemic?

The choice of provision, or not, of Advanced Services is down to individual contractors. While all contractors saw significant increases in dispensing volume and associated workload during the initial phase of the pandemic, the peaks have been different for each contractor and therefore each contractors' option to stop, or to continue to provide services has also been different.

Q. How will PSNC ensure funding for MURs and NMS isn't lost?

In line with the announcement on the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF), NHSE&I and DHSC agreed a five-year deal for community pharmacies, guaranteeing funding levels until 2023/24. Under this agreement it was announced that Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) would be decommissioned at the end of March 2021 with the funding associated to be reinvested into community pharmacy to keep the overall funding sum at £2.592bn. For the year 2020/21 the budget for MURs will be reduced, with a maximum of 100 MURs permitted per pharmacy, but fees associated with the service will stay the same. The New Medicine Service (NMS) remains within the CPCF and both the budget allocation and the fees associated with the service will be maintained.

Where the notional budgets for MUR and NMS are not spent, the unused funding is distributed to contractors via other fees and allowances, so the funding is not lost to the sector.

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

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