



Daily Update

Wednesday 2nd December 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 outlines his aspirations for pharmacy; latest issue of CPN; FAQs on temporary suspension of prescription signing.

PSNC CEO outlines his aspirations for pharmacy

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes considers the future potential for community pharmacy's role in his latest blog.



Setting out his aspirations for the coming year, the blog describes how community pharmacy can best support the delivery of COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, but it warns that none of this can be achieved without resolution on PSNC's funding bids for the sector.

[Read the PSNC CEO Blog](#)

CPN magazine: November round-up

The November 2020 edition of PSNC's Community Pharmacy News (CPN) is now available. This issue of CPN features:

- Update on measures to address pharmacy workload pressures during the second wave of the pandemic;
- COVID-19 vaccination programme;
- FMD to cease; and
- Suspension of prescription signing.

[Read CPN magazine](#)

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:

Questions about the temporary suspension of prescription signing

Q. Do I still need to ask patients to provide evidence of their exemption?

A. Pharmacy teams should continue to ask patients to provide evidence of their entitlement to free NHS prescriptions and mark the relevant exemption category on the reverse of the paper FP10 forms or EPS tokens on behalf of the patient. If the patient is unable to provide evidence of their entitlement to free NHS prescriptions or where there is doubt over whether the evidence provided is valid pharmacy teams should mark the 'Evidence Not Seen' box on the back of the form with an 'X'.

Q. Will FP10 paper prescription forms be switched between exempt and chargeable groups if they are left unsigned by patients or their representatives (including by pharmacy staff)?

A. Whilst the suspension of signature requirements is active (from 1st November 2020 until 31st March 2021 initially), the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will **NOT SWITCH any unsigned paper prescription forms between exempt and chargeable groups**, but instead, will process prescriptions according to the group in which they are submitted in. To avoid any inappropriate charge deductions, pharmacy staff should ensure that FP10 paper prescriptions forms (including those submitted using red separators) are sorted into the correct patient charge groups (exempt, paid, or paid at old charge rate), taking extra care that exempt prescriptions are NOT inadvertently submitted with the paid bundle or vice-versa. This step is particularly important because any unsigned prescriptions marked with a reason for exemption but inadvertently filed in the paid bundle will be treated as paid by the NHSBSA and the relevant number of prescription charges will be deducted from the contractor's account.

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

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