



Daily Update

Monday 7th 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: call for better access to SCR; changes to EPS token submission; pharmacy IT standards; suppliers' Christmas opening hours.

Pharmacy professionals need better access to SCR

PSNC and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) are calling for continued pharmacy access to Summary Care Records with Additional Information (SCRs with AI) following the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), NHS Digital and NHSX, it is argued that community pharmacists need comprehensive access to electronic health records to provide the person-centred services set out in the NHS Long Term Plan.

Additional Information in SCRs can assist with enhancing patient safety, because extra information is available relating to management of long-term conditions, immunisations and significant medical history. However, so far, this additional information has only been made available to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians when patients consent to additional information being included in their SCR and during the COVID-19 pandemic for all patients, as a result of pandemic legislation.

[Read the letter here](#)

Changes to EPS token submission following the suspension of signature requirements

PSNC has received confirmation from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that it is no longer necessary for contractors to submit EPS tokens (other than those used for Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) claims) to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) whilst the **suspension of signature requirements** remains in place. The change to token submission affects prescriptions dispensed from December 2020 onwards.

Whilst the suspension of signature requirements is in place, it is important that pharmacy teams check and confirm the patient's current paid or exempt status and ensure the correct declaration is applied to the electronic message before it is submitted for payment to the NHSBSA.

[Find out more and view PSNC's guidance](#)

PRSB to update pharmacy IT standards

The Professional Record Standards Body (PRSB) previously established [Pharmacy information flows IT standards](#). PRSB are now working with RPS, PSNC, Community Pharmacy IT Group and other stakeholders to further update these IT standards.

The use of [IT standards](#) within the health and care sector enables people, devices and systems to communicate in a more efficient and electronic manner. The growing use of standards improves patient care and enables improved analysis.

Get Pharmacy contractors that would like to get **involved** with the work can contact it@psnc.org.uk with 'Pharmacy information flows' within the email subject title. The work is scheduled to take place during late 2020 and early 2021.

[Learn more about pharmacy IT standards](#)

Manufacturer & Wholesaler Christmas Opening Hours 2020

At this busy time of year manufacturers are working closely with wholesalers to ensure that sufficient stock is available at wholesalers for the Christmas period. To help community pharmacy teams keep on top of customer service desk opening hours and delivery dates around this time, PSNC is working with suppliers to collate this information together in one place for easy reference.

[View PSNC's summary information](#)

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