



# Daily Update

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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: MP engagement; PSNC CEO blog; register for RTEC; Christmas Bank Holidays.**

## **PSNC and LPCs brief MPs on pharmacy's role in the pandemic**

In the last week PSNC has been working with some LPCs to help brief MPs about the pharmacy response to COVID-19 and the challenges facing the sector. The MPs have been engaged and interested to understand the pressures pharmacies are under and what more the Government could do to support the sector. We will be hosting further MP briefing events in January and if any LPCs are interested who haven't yet been in touch, please email [commsteam@psnc.org.uk](mailto:commsteam@psnc.org.uk).

For those in contact with their local MPs – or who receive any queries – please take a look at [PSNC's resources to help with MP engagement](#). This includes a briefing on the financial pressures facing community pharmacies, which was updated in December 2020 and contains our latest messaging on funding asks for the sector.

We are always interested to hear from those who have been communicating with MPs and please do share any communications you have had which could be useful for our national work – including responses from MPs, or where they have written letters to the Minister. Please forward these to [commsteam@psnc.org.uk](mailto:commsteam@psnc.org.uk).

## **Chief Executive's blog**

In his latest blog, PSNC CEO Simon Dukes considers the future potential for community pharmacy's role, setting out his aspirations for the coming year. Mr Dukes hopes that part of the legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic is the end of competition in the health service, calling on everyone in the community pharmacy sector to play their part in trying to attain that vision.

### **[Read the CEO blog](#)**

The Chief Executive's monthly blog is also published in PSNC's Community Pharmacy News (CPN) magazine. [Read the November issue of CPN here.](#)

## **Have you registered to use RTEC yet?**

Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC), which digitally checks if patients are eligible for free NHS prescriptions, has been rolled out to PMR systems in around 1,100 pharmacies so far.

However, before RTEC can be activated for an individual pharmacy, the contractor must confirm they agree to the terms of the RTEC user agreement.

With further rollouts scheduled in the next few months, contractors are advised to read the RTEC user agreement and confirm their acceptance of it now, via the Manage Your Service (MYS) application. Completing the RTEC registration form will avoid delays in system suppliers activating RTEC for your pharmacy as part of the rollout programme.

[Learn more about the registration process](#)

## Christmas Bank Holiday Opening

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has confirmed that there is currently no intention to issue a national or regional direction for community pharmacies to open on Bank Holidays over the coming Christmas and New Year period, as happened at Easter.

[Full details on Christmas Bank Holiday opening](#)

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. 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)**

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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