



# Daily Update

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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

**In today's update: Pharmacy Advice Audit extended; PPE claim evidence requests; PQS declaration portal delay; latest January price concessions; new Fluoxetine SSP; register for RTEC; vaccination portal for locums.**

## Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021 extended

PSNC has had an exceptional response to our Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021: thank you to the pharmacies who have taken part this week. We have decided to extend the participation deadline into next week to make sure no pharmacy misses out on the chance to submit their data.

Community pharmacy teams have been asked to take part in an audit to capture information about patients coming into pharmacies seeking informal advice. It also attempts to get a sense of how significant workload and staffing pressures are currently.

Note, PSNC has become aware of an issue where some pharmacies are currently unable to see the audit submission module on PharmOutcomes. We are working with the team at PharmOutcomes to get this resolved as quickly as possible. If you are affected, please wait until early next week to try again.

[Find out more](#)

## Requests for evidence to support exceptional PPE claims

Some contractors are reporting being contacted by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to provide evidence for their exceptional PPE claims, with the request stating that appropriate evidence should be sent through within 5 working days of receipt of that email. The short timelines are deliberately tight to support the processing of these payments, where possible, by the 1st March. If meeting this timescale is not practical, especially given the current pandemic related difficulties, NHSBSA has confirmed to PSNC that submission of evidence can be made later, but contractors should be aware that this could delay payment until 1st April.

Other contractors have been asked for evidence where they have only claimed the standard claim amount for their pharmacy. This could be due to the standard claim amount having been unintentionally submitted as exceptional. If you believe this has happened to you, please email NHSBSA at [nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net) stating this – they will investigate and let you know if you still need to provide further evidence.

## **PQS declaration: delay in opening of portal**

The NHSBSA has notified pharmacy contractors that there will be a delay in opening the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal for Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) declarations. Instead of opening on Monday 1st February 2021, the declaration window will now open **by Thursday 4th February 2021**.

[Find out more](#)

## **January 2021 Price Concessions**

Earlier today PSNC published the 3rd update of price concessions granted by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). However an additional price concession has been granted this afternoon.

[View the current list of January price concessions in full](#)

## **New SSP issued for Fluoxetine 40mg capsules**

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Fluoxetine 40mg capsules, a new Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been authorised by DHSC Ministers.

Introduced today, SSP09 provides pharmacists with procedures to follow in providing a suitable alternative product, two Fluoxetine 20mg capsules in response to the serious shortage affecting the 40mg capsules. Community pharmacy contractors and their teams are asked to read the SSP documentation in full and to implement the protocol with immediate effect.

[Full details and guidance](#)

## **Reminder: Use MYS to register for RTEC**

Before Real Time Exemption Checking ([RTEC](#)) can be activated for an individual pharmacy, the pharmacy contractor must confirm they agree to the terms of the RTEC user agreement. Contractors can now read the RTEC user agreement and confirm their acceptance of it via an RTEC registration form in the NHSBSA's MYS application.

NHSBSA and PSNC are recommending that contractors complete this form in MYS to avoid delays in their system supplier activating RTEC as part of their rollout programme.

[Learn more about the registration process](#)

## **PDA web portal to support locums getting vaccinated**

The Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA) has developed a [web portal](#) to assist locum pharmacists with accessing a COVID-19 vaccination.

[Read the PDA news story on the portal](#)

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

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