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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Friday 19th November 2021 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: Pharmacy Minister thanks pharmacies for pandemic work; LFD tests evaluation; SSP for Lipitor® tablets; NHSE&I wellbeing event.Minister Maria Caulfield thanks pharmacies for pandemic workPSNC this week had an introductory meeting with new pharmacy Minister, Maria Caulfield MP, at which the ongoing challenges facing the sector, as well as future opportunities for pharmacy businesses were considered.The Minister asked PSNC to convey her thanks to all pharmacies for the work done by the sector through the COVID-19 pandemic. Patients, including her constituents, had really appreciated the sector through this time, she said.As well as emphasising the value of the sector through the pandemic, the PSNC Leadership Team raised the very serious pressures on pharmacy businesses resulting from the ongoing funding squeeze, and the severity of capacity and workforce issues.The changing nature of advice and support needed by patients walking into, and phoning pharmacies was also discussed, along with consideration of how pharmacies can be empowered to do more to support people with minor ailments.[**Read PSNC's statement on the Ministerial meeting**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=bc99d4abba&e=d19e9fd41c)Evaluation of LFD testsIn December, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will be sending some pharmacies, via Parcel Force, cartons of 15 combined COVID testing kits (containing both a standard Lateral Flow Device (LFD) pack along with one polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test).A part of ongoing assessments of LFD test kits, this evaluation involves citizens taking a PCR test alongside one of their LFD tests and sending it to a lab for testing. There is no additional work for pharmacy teams to complete.[**Learn more about the evaluation**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=5e4a4956bb&e=d19e9fd41c)SSP issued for Lipitor® 20mg chewable tabletsA reminder that a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued for Lipitor® (atorvastatin) 20mg chewable tablets and community pharmacy teams should implement the SSP with immediate effect. SSP013 provides that for every Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablet originally prescribed, one Atorvastatin 20mg tablet must be supplied.[**Read further information, including PSNC guidance**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=787a5f502e&e=d19e9fd41c)NHSE&I online event: Health and wellbeingNHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) is inviting all community pharmacy colleagues to join an online event on **25th November at 12.00pm-1.30pm**. This event will be an opportunity to hear about the range of dedicated health and wellbeing support offers available to you, in recognition of the current pressures and upcoming winter pressures.This online session will also offer delegates the opportunity to share their thoughts on how NHSE&I can best support your health and wellbeing.[**Register for the NHSE&I health and wellbeing event**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=62a4187951&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** 14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQTel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: **info@psnc.org.uk**  |
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