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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Thursday 22nd September 2022 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.CPCF arrangements for 2022/23 and 2023/24 agreedPSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England have agreed the arrangements for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Although the agreement is in line with the five-year CPCF deal, it includes an extension of the Transitional Payment to recognise ongoing pressures and a one-off £100 million excess margin write-off for contractors. This was hard-won, and it means that Drug Tariff prices will be relatively higher in the New Year, allowing the sector to keep £100m that would otherwise have been paid back to Government.PSNC’s clear view was that these monies will be critical for contractors as we head into a very challenging winter period. Rejecting this deal would have meant losing the £100m, which was not an option given the precarious financial position that so many contractors are now in.The deal also includes the launch of a new Pharmacy Contraception Service, modest expansions to existing services, a Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) in both years, and an agreement to commission an independent economic review of community pharmacy businesses, which we believe will demonstrate the scope and scale of the unsustainable pressures on the sector.PSNC has also insisted on a commitment from DHSC to review the implementation of the Price Concession system, which is no longer working from a contractor perspective.Throughout a tense period of negotiations, PSNC has been frustrated by the refusal of Government and the NHS to move away from the five-year CPCF deal, despite the overwhelming evidence of the current economic pressures. The five-year deal was agreed when the current economic situation and COVID-19 pandemic could not have been foreseen, and also at a time when PSNC was being threatened with further funding cuts for the sector if agreement could not be reached.The PSNC Committee voted overwhelmingly to accept the deal for 2022/23 and 2023/24 in order to guard against the threat of having to pay back an additional £100m in margin to Government, to hold on to the other negotiated benefits for contractors, and to maintain an open and constructive dialogue with the new Government.But PSNC is now engaged in urgent work to seek further financial support and other help for contractors to come from outside of the CPCF funding[**Read here for full details, contractor statements and PSNC's contractor briefing**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=1dec2afc59&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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