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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Monday 14th November 2022 |

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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: PSNC launches Four-Point Plan; national audit announced; Self-care Attitudes Survey results; pharmacy's role in promotion of continence; PQS FAQs.PSNC's new political influencing campaign launchesWe are this week launching a new influencing campaign to build wider political support for community pharmacies and ensure that MPs and Peers across Parliament understand the risks to pharmacy services that the current pressures on the sector are causing. In a [**Parliamentary event to be held tomorrow**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9e83141c06&e=d19e9fd41c) (Tuesday 15th November) MPs and Peers will hear from PSNC, LPCs and other pharmacy bodies about the scope of what pharmacy has to offer as well as urgent need for action to address the pressures on the sector. Following the event, we will be working with LPCs and contractors to organise a series of pharmacy visits for key Parliamentarians including Minsters, Committee and APPG Members. We will also be undertaking more media work to highlight pharmacy pressures and to call for action.To help engage with Parliamentarians we have developed a key messaging document which sets out a four-point action plan that we want Government to take immediately.[**Read PSNC's four-point action plan**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=981e134234&e=d19e9fd41c)Mandatory national audit announcedPSNC and NHS England have agreed that the 2022/23 national clinical audit will focus on valproate, with the aim of reducing the potential harm caused by taking valproate during pregnancy. **The audit must be completed by all community pharmacy contractors as this is part of their NHS contractual requirements.** Contractors will be required to conduct the audit over a six-week consecutive period, however, the workload associated with the audit is expected to be manageable for all contractors as the number of patients covered by the audit is small.[**Learn more about the audit**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=07bd07268f&e=d19e9fd41c) Survey suggests public lacks confidence to treat some common conditionsMore than half of people (52%) do not feel confident in treating backache and over a quarter of people (27%) would go to their GP or A&E for conditions that they could treat themselves at home, PAGB's 2022 survey on self-care attitudes has revealed.According to the survey of over 2,000 UK adults, less than half (44%) currently use community pharmacists as their first step in in getting advice on self-treatable conditions, but respondents support expanding the role of pharmacists so their skills can be better utilised.[**See the full survey results and comment from PSNC's CEO**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=c07ae93b66&e=d19e9fd41c) Pharmacy’s role in promotion of continenceThe University of the West of England is conducting a study to understand the role of community pharmacy in the promotion of continence. As part of this work, pharmacy teams are being invited to participate in interviews and focus group discussions to explore current practice with regards to individuals presenting with bladder and/or bowel incontinence. [**Find out how you can get involved**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=c118d563ac&e=d19e9fd41c)

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| 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 on the **Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2022/23** include:**Q. If my pharmacy does not routinely stock the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines listed in the Addressing unwarranted variation in care domain, do I need to start stocking these medicines to be able to claim as meeting the requirements of the domain?A.**No. If contractors do not routinely stock these medicines, there is no requirement to stock these medicines to meet the requirements of the domain.  **Q. If my pharmacy does not routinely stock the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines listed in the Addressing unwarranted variation in care domain, do I need to update NHS Profile Manager to confirm that I do not stock these medicines?****A.**No. If you do not routinely stock the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines listed in the Addressing unwarranted variation in care domain, you are **not**required to update NHS Profile Manager; it is only those contractors that stock the medicines, who are required to update NHS Profile Manager. Further information can be found on PSNC's [**PQS FAQs page**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=410f99881e&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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