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| News Alert |
| Thursday 15th December 2022 |

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|  | Three SSPs issued for Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Pen V) oral solution |  |
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|  | In response to significant ongoing disruption affecting supply of Phenoxymethylpenicillin oral solution, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued three new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs). The SSPs, introduced with immediate effect, allow community pharmacists to consider different options to enable continued supply of Phenoxymethylpenicillin to mitigate the ongoing supply disruptions affecting this antibiotic.Effective today, **15th December 2022**, SSP040, SSP041 and SSP042 authorised by the Secretary of State provide pharmacists with procedures to follow in providing suitable alternative strengths and formulations of Phenoxymethylpenicillin. The protocols aim to help reduce the number of patients needing to return to their prescriber for a replacement prescription. For each SSP, DHSC has included specific patient counselling points which must be taken into account when deciding whether supply in accordance with an SSP is suitable for a patient.Pharmacy teams are advised to **read the documentation in full for all SSPs published**.For PSNC's full news story, including more information on the SSPs, click [**here**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=214526bc89&e=d19e9fd41c). **Gordon Hockey, PSNC Director Legal, said:**“We asked DHSC to introduce Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) to help mitigate the ongoing supply disruption affecting the availability of phenoxymethylpenicillin (Pen V) and are pleased to see that some have now been introduced. However, PSNC was not involved in the development of these protocols and our team is urgently clarifying some points to provide contractors with additional guidance and to seek assurances around the reimbursement of any alternatives supplied. We will issue our additional guidance as soon as possible.More widely, PSNC has also been pressing DHSC to think broadly about what other measures could help to manage the current situation and consider the introduction of greater flexibilities, such as allowing pharmacists more professional discretion to amend prescriptions separate to SSPs.”  |  |
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