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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Monday 9th January 2023 |

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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: Health Secretary wants pharmacies to take on expanded role; pharmacy contractors attend NHS Recovery Forum; PQS Declaration questions published; SSP updates.Health Secretary references extended role for pharmacy in statement to ParliamentIn a statement to Parliament today, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Steve Barclay MP, stated that the [**Government wants pharmacies to take on an expanded role in the provision of patient care**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ab429437e8&e=d19e9fd41c). He also said his Department and the NHS plan to work with sector representatives to tackle key barriers to pharmacies providing more services. PSNC CEO Janet Morrison has responded to the statement. “With greater integration, capacity and sustainable funding, community pharmacy can be a key part of the solution for big NHS challenges such as GP access,” she said.PSNC has been discussing a fully funded Pharmacy First scheme with the Government for many months – including putting a business case forward for this in our CPCF negotiations last Spring. We remain ready to start negotiations on this as soon as they want to. “As we said in our recent letter to the Secretary of State, the Government is now at a fork in the road – it must decide whether it wants that sustainable, fully resourced community pharmacy sector which could continue to deliver huge value to patients while also doing more to ease wider NHS pressures; or does it want to continue to degrade our sector and the services that so many people rely on. We very much hope the Secretary of State agrees it must be the former, and that Government is ready to back this with appropriate funding,” Janet said.Pharmacy contractors attend NHS Recovery ForumA small number of PSNC members were invited to the Prime Minister’s NHS Recovery Forum on GP Access in their capacity as community pharmacy contractors this weekend. During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed directly by healthcare leaders, and PSNC was pleased to hear that community pharmacy was seen as integral to those discussions. We understand that the Forum was told about both the ambitions and the concerns of the sector – this echoes the messages that everyone in pharmacy is giving to Government at all levels.PQS Declaration questions publishedThe NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has published the questions which will be included in the 2022/23 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) declaration so community pharmacy contractors can view these ahead of making their declaration. The questions are available on the [**NHSBSA PQS hub page**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=f48778d98d&e=d19e9fd41c); contractors should scroll down to the ‘Declaration questions’ section where they can access the questions in a Word document.[**Find out more about making a PQS Declaration**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=17eb8a44f6&e=d19e9fd41c)Updates to SSPsThe following Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) have been updated: * [**SSP036**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=31ea0d719f&e=d19e9fd41c) for Estraderm MX® 100mcg patches has been reactivated and will now expire on 13th January 2023.
* [**SSP032**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=0cdbd9a09c&e=d19e9fd41c) for Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets has been reactivated and will now expire on 3rd February 2023.
* [**SSP039**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=14482172c2&e=d19e9fd41c)for Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets has been extended to 3rd February 2023.
* [**SSP043 – SSP047**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=8158044da8&e=d19e9fd41c) were also amended on 23rd December 2022 to include oral Azithromycin as an alternative antibiotic to Penicillin V.

[**Learn more about these SSPs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=51b7b38d5f&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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