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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Wednesday 25th 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: Pharmacy mentioned in Health Questions; help increase signatories to an MP letter to Health Secretary; Data Security and Protection Toolkit webinar; two new SSPs issued.Minister asked to comment on pharmacy closuresAt Parliamentary Health Questions yesterday, the Conservative MP for Eastleigh, Paul Holmes, asked what actions the Government is taking to reverse the current worrying trend of pharmacy closures. This followed a meeting between Mr Holmes, his local LPC and PSNC last year, followed by further PSNC briefings to him and his team. In response, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Neil O’Brien, stated that the Government wants to see community pharmacies further empowered to “do more clinical work, to take the burden off GPs.”We remain deeply concerned about the extreme pressures that community pharmacy contractors are continuing to face, and the ongoing threat of more permanent closures, and it was disappointing that the Government was not able to commit to concrete actions to provide the urgent support that pharmacies need.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=5607b086e6&e=d19e9fd41c)MP letter to Health SecretaryTo continue to apply pressure on the Government about the critical pharmacy funding situation, we are now seeking to facilitate the sending of a letter from MPs and peers to the Health Secretary. The letter raises the deep and growing concern over the unprecedented pressures facing the community pharmacy sector in England, and the risks that this poses to patient care and safety, if left unchecked.We would be extremely grateful if as many contractors as possible could encourage their local MP (excluding Government Ministers) to sign the letter by the deadline of **Friday 3rd February**. Note, there are two versions of the letter, one for Conservative MPs and the other for opposition MPs.[**Get involved**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=01a12c9f51&e=d19e9fd41c) Register for our 2023 Data Security and Protection Toolkit WorkshopPSNC will be holding a webinar on Thursday 23rd February at 7pm to help community pharmacy contractors to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2022/23. During the webinar, representatives from PSNC and NHS Digital will discuss the Toolkit questions, talk delegates through the available guidance materials and answer questions about making the declaration.[**Register for the webinar**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=5fe72ea8de&e=d19e9fd41c) Two new SSPs issuedThe Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued two new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Estradot® 50mcg and 100mcg patches. Both SSPs are currently set to expire on 17th February 2023.[**Learn more about the two new SSPs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ee9b86de47&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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