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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Friday 17th February 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: Update on the Pharmacy Funding Crisis; Nominations open for non-CCA Multiple Reps Election to PSNC; Dispensing and Supply Updates.Pharmacy Funding Crisis: PSNC UpdatePSNC met for a full Committee meeting early in February to consider the urgent funding and capacity crisis, as well as proposals from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England on price concessions reform and relief measures to ease pressure on pharmacies. The Committee considered the impact of the current crisis, reflecting on the economic pressures that accelerated through the autumn and winter. The worsening situation is now being exacerbated by spiralling workforce costs, dispensing at a loss, inflation and rising demand from patients. **The Committee rejected the proposals on both price concessions and relief measures as being insufficient to meet the sector’s needs.**There is now a high level of interest from Ministers and other decision-makers in the potential role of community pharmacy, particularly in using a Pharmacy First approach and making use of PGDs and the skills of independent prescribers. But we have made clear to them that without new money this is all a pipedream: we need an urgent injection of funds into the sector, otherwise we will continue to see a degradation of services and eventual collapse of the network. **The Committee is clear that there is no further place for warm words while pharmacy collapses.**We have today published a [**summary**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=0dad498dc5&e=d19e9fd41c) of the high-level influencing work we have been doing, an overview of the key outcomes of the Committee Meeting, and a [**progress update**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=08210b6489&e=d19e9fd41c) on our work since we spoke more widely with pharmacy owners in December.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=55464bceb6&e=d19e9fd41c) Reminder to send in formal nominations for Non-CCA Multiple Representatives ElectionWe recently announced the PSNC election cycle for the Non-CCA Multiple Representatives and formally invited nominations from contractors wishing to stand for election. To be eligible to stand for election the candidate must be a pharmacist, registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council, and be a Multiple pharmacy contractor or be employed by one.  For those wishing to stand for election there is a copy of the nomination form to be used on the [**Election Page**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=1adab87969&e=d19e9fd41c). Nomination forms will not be valid unless received by the joint Returning Officers no later than **12 noon on Thursday 24th February 2023.** [**Read more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=5aaf25c23e&e=d19e9fd41c)Dispensing and Supply Updates**New SSP for Paracetamol issued**DHSC has issued a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Paracetamol 120mg suppositories which came into immediate effect. [**Learn more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=065c862b4f&e=d19e9fd41c)Meanwhile, the SSPs for Estradot® 50mcg and 100mcg patches have been further extended to Friday 24th February 2023. [**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2fd82efb29&e=d19e9fd41c)**EPS turns 18 years old**It is now 18 years since the first electronic prescription was received by a community pharmacy in February 2005 using the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS). PSNC continues our work with the NHS England EPS team regarding future arrangements and enhancements to EPS. [**Read more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=41a3b0ca06&e=d19e9fd41c)**February 2023 Price Concessions First Update**DHSC has issued the initial list of price concessions for February 2023. [**See the February Price Concessions list**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=8d112462e9&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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