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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Friday 10th March 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: Increase in the prescription charge; PSNC Elections begin; CPCF dates and checklist update. Prescription charge rises to £9.65The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that from **1st April 2023**, the NHS prescription charge will **increase to £9.65 per prescription item**.Amendments to the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations have been laid before Parliament which will introduce changes for NHS prescription charge and prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs), as well as the introduction of the Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) PPC.In response to this announcement, **PSNC Chief Executive Janet Morrison said:**"The rise in prescription charge will once again hit the most vulnerable patients the hardest and it will continue to put community pharmacy teams in an impossible position – it is not our job to police a tax that many people cannot afford, and we should not have to help patients to make unbearable decisions about which medicines to pay for. While Government and the NHS have deemed it acceptable to put inflationary increases on their charges to patients, they refuse to offer community pharmacies any help at all with inflationary pressures: why is it one rule for us and another for them?"PSNC is in the process of updating its charge card and PPC poster. These will be available on our website in due course.[**Read more about changes to the prescription charge and PPCs**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=24f2c22278&e=d19e9fd41c)PSNC Elections now runningElections for the non-CCA Multiple Representatives and Regional Representatives on PSNC (soon to be Community Pharmacy England) have now begun. Voting contractors have been sent an email to either the head office contact or premises shared NHSmail address detailing who is standing for election and a unique link to the voting portal.Full lists of candidates in each of the four PSNC regional elections, where there is a ballot, and the non-CCA Multiple election can now be found on the PSNC website. Policy statements for each candidate are available on the voting portal.Voting contractors have until **12 noon on Friday 24th March 2023** to cast their vote(s).[**Find out more and see the candidate lists**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=afbd130c53&e=d19e9fd41c)PSNC briefing on important CPCF datesPSNC's Services Team has updated its checklist of important dates for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) which relate to services. It also highlights important dates for the 2022/23 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) and Terms of Service requirements, as well as dates when relevant news stories have been published which highlight resources for these services/requirements.[**View the updated briefing**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=4ba6649dd6&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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