

NHS England South West

Community Pharmacy Bulletin

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DHSC to remove Transitional Payments from February 2023

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has decided to reduce the Transitional Payment to zero from February 2023.

The reduction in Transitional Payments was deemed necessary by the DHSC as the 'unallocated' funding that made up the Transitional Payments reduced for two main reasons:

- New services have been introduced into the CPCF and their uptake has accelerated, using up the unallocated CPCF funding; and
- A new flat payment will be introduced in 2023/24, funded from the unallocated CPCF funding.

The phasing down of Transitional Payments began in October and carried on in November and December.

The Department's decision is based on the latest monitoring and analysis of funding delivery.

For further information visit [NHSBSA Website: Drug Tariff Part VIA – Transitional Payments](#)

New Primary Care Assurance Framework for delegated primary medical, pharmaceutical, ophthalmic, and dental functions

On 1 July 2022 [all ICBs assumed delegated responsibility for primary medical services and some ICBs took on delegated responsibility for one or more pharmaceutical, ophthalmic, and dental functions](#). While ICB's are now responsible for the delivery of these services, NHS England remains accountable for the discharge of these delegated functions and for seeking assurance on how ICBs are delivering them.

The new [Primary Care Assurance Framework](#), intended for regional primary care colleagues and ICB commissioners, sets out how NHS England seeks assurance that ICBs are exercising the delegated primary care functions safely, effectively and consistently within legislation and statutory guidance.

NHS App hits over 30 million sign-ups

NHS Digital figures show over seven million new sign-ups to the NHS App in 2022, meaning targets to have 68% of people registered by March 2023 have already been achieved. Registered users now exceed 30 million.

Read more about the [NHS App](#)

Thank you - Christmas and New Year Bank Holiday Opening

We wish to say a big thank you to all those contractors who opened their doors to patients over the Christmas and New Year Bank Holiday period. Thank you for your continued hard work in maintaining access to pharmaceutical services for patients over a very busy and challenging period of the year.

Easter Bank Holiday Period and 3 May Bank Holiday

A reminder to all contractors can you please ensure your DoS Profile and NHS.UK web page is updated with the correct opening hours for your pharmacy for the Easter Bank Holiday Period and 3 May Bank Holiday.

- Good Friday 7 April 2023
- Saturday 8 April 2023
- Easter Sunday 9 April 2023
- Bank Holiday Monday 10 April 2023
- Bank Holiday Monday 1 May 2023

Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles

Self-referral to Healthy Living for people with type 2 diabetes

Please signpost your patients to [Healthy Living, a free web-based NHS structured education programme, clinically proven to help users to live well with type 2 diabetes](#).

It can help users to feel confident in managing diabetes, improve mental wellbeing, and make and maintain healthy lifestyle choices.

Quality & Regulations

Evaluation of Pharmacy Quality Scheme Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) audits published

As part of the [WHO Challenge of Reducing Harm from Medication](#), the Pharmacy Quality Scheme incentivised an [NSAIDs audit in the over 65s 2018-19](#) and a re-audit in 2019-20.

NSAIDs are high risk medicines, which, when prescribed frequently without gastroprotection and in combination with other medicines, can put patients at risk of serious side-effects such as gastrointestinal bleeds.

The findings and evaluation from the audits have been [published which show that more patients are being prescribed gastroprotection and fewer are being admitted for gastrointestinal bleeds due to a combination of work across AHSNs, general practice and community pharmacy](#).

Thank you for all your hard work in this area.

Priority Access to Utilities – have you signed up yet?

To further support your pharmacy's business continuity plan you can now sign up for the Priority Services Register. Inclusion on this register should mean your pharmacy has priority access to electricity, water, and gas supplies. The Priority Services Register is run by the UK's utility companies. Your utility bills may explain how to sign-up and provide contact details. Alternatively, identify who your energy supplier is at the [Energy Networks Association's \(ENA's\) website](#) or search for "PSR" and or "Priority Service Register" on your utility company websites.

Advice on how to best complete the register can be found via the PSNC website [here](#).

You will need to send a separate request to your water supply company explaining you are a 'sensitive property', as relevant data sharing between water and other utility companies is not yet in place.

Shortages

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

1. Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) have been issued for [Estradot® 50mcg and 100mcg patches](#). The SSPs will enable community pharmacists to supply patients with the equivalent strength Evorel® patch. The SSPs came into effect on 25 January and are currently scheduled to end on 17 February. This SSP and supporting guidance is now published on the SSP website.
2. Extension of four Serious Shortage Protocols (SSP), withdrawal of one SSP and end of two SSPs

SSP	Current end date	Action
SSP029 Estradiol (Sandrena®) 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets	27 January 2023	Extended until 28 February 2023
SSP030 Estradiol (Sandrena®) 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets	27 January 2023	Extended until 28 February 2023
SSP031 Estradiol (Sandrena®) 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets	27 January 2023	Extended until 28 February 2023
SSP032 Atorvastatin (Lipitor®) 10mg chewable tablets	3 February 2023	Extended until 13 March 2023
SSP036 Estraderm MX® 100mcg patches	27 January 2023	Ends as scheduled on 27 January 2023
SSP038 Estraderm MX® 75mcg patches	27 January 2023	Ends as scheduled on 27 January 2023
SSP039 Atorvastatin (Lipitor®) 20mg chewable tablets	3 February 2023	Withdrawn on 27 January 2023

Information on current SSPs is now available to view on the NHS Business Service Authority BSA's dedicated SSP web page along with supporting guidance

- [Dedicated SSP web page](#)

The PSNC also have a lot of guidance on their website which you may find useful if you have queries :

- [Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\)- PSNC Website](#)

If you have any questions regarding SSPs please contact the NHS Prescription Service:

- Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk
- Telephone: 0300 330 1349
- Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

DHSC Medicine Supply Notifications

- Date of Issue 23/01/23. A Tier 2 medicine supply notification for Senokot® syrup and Senokot® 12 Years Plus syrup (both containing 7.5mg/5ml sennosides)

Medicine	Out of stock	Alternatives
Senokot® syrup and Senokot® 12 Years Plus syrup (both containing 7.5mg/5ml sennosides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senokot® syrup 7.5mg/5ml syrup - out of stock until w/c 6th March 2023.• Senokot® syrup 12 Years Plus 7.5mg/5ml syrup - out of stock until w/c 27th March 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senna 7.5mg tablets.• Alternative liquid formulation laxatives.• See MSN for details.

DHSC and NHS England have now launched an online Medicines Supply [Tool](#), which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues.

The Tool also details any changes to resupply dates and updates to the entries. To access the Tool, you will be required to register which can be done through the Specialist Pharmacy Service website [SPS Website](#)

Digital & Technology

Register for PSNC Data Security and Protection Toolkit (2023) Workshop

PSNC 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](#).

PSNC have worked in collaboration with NHS Digital on the new requirements and made improvements to this year's Toolkit. 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.

To have the best experience at this webinar, we recommend contractors read [PSNC's guidance documents](#) and that you [log into the Toolkit to review the questions](#) before attending.

Who should sign up? All contractors are required to give yearly information governance, data, and security assurances to the NHS via the online self-assessment.

To register for the workshop [Please sign up here](#)

NHS Smart Card Renewal

If you have received automated messages about NHS smartcard renewal, please self-renew as soon as possible.

If NHS Digital do not manage to increase the rate of renewal now, it will inevitably result in a rush of users requiring smartcard renewals through the Care Identity Service with increasing urgency.

This could lead to delays in access to systems and services, due to backlogs of renewals being requested for processing by Registration Authorities. Any impact on the Care Identity Service will not affect authentication and access to clinical systems for users with a valid smartcard.

Please use the link for smartcard renewals: [Self-renewal NHS smartcard service - NHS Digital](#)

Email Correspondence – Signature Details

Please can you ensure when communicating with the NHS England Community Pharmacy Team you include the following details within your correspondence to help us with responding to your enquiry. Many thanks.

- Contact Name
- Name of Contractor
- ODS Code (F Code)

Training & Education

Health Education England survey on the use of digital technologies in health and care education

Health Education England (HEE) wants to improve digitally enabled education within health and care across England. They are asking people to get involved by visiting the [survey webpage](#) and sharing thoughts in the State of the Nation survey before Friday 3 February 2023.

Be an NHS Pharmacy Ambassador and inspire children and young people in your local community

Pharmacy professionals are invited to find out more about becoming an NHS Pharmacy Ambassador by joining an information session on Monday 6 February 2023, at [1pm-2pm](#) or [7pm-8pm](#).

The NHS Ambassador programme, through Inspiring the Future, connects NHS staff with schools to take part in a range of fun and interactive careers activities in 2023.

For further details please visit [here](#).

Dispensing Doctors

Dispensing Services Quality Scheme (DSQS) 2022/23 Declaration Forms & Clinical Audits

Thank you to all those who have returned the DSQS Self-Declaration Form, Clinical Audit, and DRUMS Declaration for their practice.

We are still awaiting a number of submissions for the Self-Declaration Form. If you are yet to return your declaration can please complete it and return it to the pharmacy team as soon as possible.

Additionally, there are a number of deadlines approaching for clinical audit and DRUMS Declaration. As a reminder for those who have yet to return their submissions the deadlines are: -

1. Clinical Audit: **Friday 10 February 2023**
2. DRUMS Declaration Form: **Friday 17 March 2023**

Please note the deadlines set are to ensure that there is time for the primary care team to review all submissions and for any queries to be resolved before the deadline of 31 March 2023.

Please return all submissions to england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

If you have not received a copy of the Self-Declaration Form, DRUMS Declaration or require any further information on the clinical audit, then please email the address above and a member of the team will arrange for details to be sent.

Useful Information

Complaints and Incidents

The South West Region Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team receive a high volume of complaints and incidents. To ensure we provide the best patient experience and adhere to our quality and improvement processes it is imperative all pharmacies respond within the required deadline so all complaints and incidents can be investigated and resolved as soon as possible.

If a community pharmacy is asked to report on an investigation, they will be required to respond within 10 working days of receiving the request.

All complaints and incidents will be reported through the pharmacy's NHS mail account so please ensure your pharmacy is checking the account daily.

Interpretation and Translation Services

Interpretation and translation services are available for Community Pharmacies when treating NHS Patients. These services are commissioned and paid for by NHS England South West. To access the services commissioned for the following areas please follow the link [here](#).

- Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon, and Wiltshire (BSW)
- Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)
- Devon
- Dorset
- Gloucestershire
- Kernow
- Somerset

Contact Details and Further Information

NHS England – South West Region Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team contact information

Email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

Website: [NHS England — South West » South West Community Pharmacy information](#) for more further information, blank templates, forms, and documents.