

Welcome to the August 2022 CPWY Committee Blog!

As we are all aware these are particularly challenging times for all of us, both at home and work. The demands on everyone in the pharmacy have not reduced since Covid restrictions have been lifted and the general public are still looking to us to fill the gap in access to general practice or simply help with contacting the surgery which they are telling us is difficult to access physically or on the telephone. I for one am proud that community pharmacy has always kept our doors open throughout Covid.

With this in mind, I have reflected on how we maintain our service and are able to develop pharmacy in the future, whilst grappling with the current economic climate. With wage and energy costs spiralling upwards we need to ensure the income coming into the pharmacy is maintained or increased. Whilst engaging with the new clinical services is essential (as this is linked to additional income), we also need to look at where the majority of our professional income comes from which is still primarily the dispensing service.

The core of the dispensing service is that you are paid the cost of the drugs you supply with margin. However, the supply issues we are currently experiencing means that this is not necessarily the case as you may have to pay more than tariff, not just for the occasional item but for many, many items. A loss like this is unsustainable in any kind of business model, especially when you have spent a lot of time and effort trying to obtain the product in the first place.

PSNC works to ensure that the Department of Health and Social Care is made aware when costs increase above Drug Tariff. So far this month (Aug 2022) 88 notifications have been made of fairly common medication and over 100 concessions have been granted in some months this year, demonstrating this is an ongoing issue.

To help PSNC with negotiations, contractors need to inform PSNC of pricing issues: [Report product over Drug Tariff price](#). The form is really easy to complete so do not be put off, I use it and it takes less than a minute to complete.

I cannot be clear enough that **reporting pricing issues to PSNC is essential** to help PSNC in their concession conversations with the Department of Health and Social Care. Without information from contractors, PSNC is not able to provide the evidence they need in negotiations relating to concessions.

Further details regarding how the price concession system operates can be found in this [PSNC Briefing 023/22: How the price concession system operates](#). If you are interested in this important topic, can I refer you to the [PSNC website](#) that has details readily available and they will be running a webinar hosted by Mike Dent on 7th September 2022 at 7.30pm which you [register for](#) and either watch live or be sent a link to watch in your own time.

Key information

- PSNC webinar <https://psnc.org.uk/our-events/price-concessions-webinar/>
- PSNC website concession page <https://psnc.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/price-concessions/>
- [PSNC Briefing 023/22: How the price concession system operates](#)

- To support patient understanding of the issue the [Medicines Factsheet: Information on medicines supply for patients](#) leaflet can be used to explain medicines supply to patients.
- A CPWY briefing for prescribers is available here: [Medicines Shortages Briefing for Prescribers](#)

Thanks for your time in reading this blog.

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