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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 13th December |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Strep A |

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| **Strep A in Children Summary**NHS England - South West Community Pharmacy team sent the following information out on Friday 9th December. Please find below updated information regarding Streptococcus in children attached. Please ensure all team members including pharmacists have read it. |

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| [**Strep A in Children**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=4b4aa6add8&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Strep A & Antibiotic Supply**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=3bc29a2451&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Clinical Guidance**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=75b272c217&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Antibiotics |

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| **Antibiotic Availability and Medicines Pricing: Update for contractors**Following on from previous [information for community pharmacy teams](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=64d79d8084&e=3e5221b889) about invasive Group A streptococcal (or Strep A) infections, PSNC published a further update about antibiotic supply and pricing issues.According to the most recent update from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), sufficient supplies of antibiotics used to treat Strep A are still available at manufacturer level, however, as a result of the significant increase in demand there are still problems with getting it through to pharmacies. This is in line with what contractors have been reporting to us.The DHSC Supply Team has been working closely with wholesalers and expect this to improve this week, though PSNC has warned the Department about the very serious impact this issue is having on pharmacies. In addition, we have pressed the Department to think broadly about what measures could help to manage the current crisis.Due to pricing issues affecting several medicines including antibiotics, PSNC have also applied for a record number of price concessions this month. PSNC have reiterated to the Department that the pricing situation is very serious and needs resolving urgently and asked them to fast-track concessions this month for affected antibiotics.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=dc6cded6f2&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Dispensing & Supply Updates |

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| **Dispensing and Supply Updates**PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has published the following notices about medicines supply that pharmacy teams should be aware of.**SSP005 extended:**DHSC has decided to further extend the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets (SSP005) to Friday 10th February 2023. [Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ff5b897ca9&e=3e5221b889)**Manufacturer and Wholesaler Christmas Opening Hours: :**We have created a summary of manufacturers and wholesalers’ customer service desk opening hours over the Christmas period and collated links to information on the order cut off/delivery schedules during this period. [Read more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c68ca15090&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Banes - Sexual Health |

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| **BANES Pharmacies ONLY - Sexual Health Service**Please find some messages to use on social media, useful contact details and the opening times of Riverside clinic over the Christmas and New Year period. |

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| [**SH Social Media & Newsletter**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b77db6b13d&e=3e5221b889) |

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| BNSSG - Health & Wellbeing |

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| **BNSSG Pharmacies ONLY - Health and Wellbeing Support for whole team**Would you like to make health and wellbeing a focus for your and your team? Would you like some money to do this?Find out more by watching [this video](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=bdcb4193fc&e=3e5221b889) and click here to [sign up](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=7c250782c7&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| SSP's |

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| **Serious shortage protocols (SSP’s)**SSPs are a potential way to help pharmacies to manage any serious shortages of medicines that may occur, without needing to refer patients back to prescribers.Please ensure all your team are aware of the current SSP’s in force currently. More information is available [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=50c2353d2e&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Expiry of six HRT SSPs**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that sufficient stock of Oestrogel® Pump Pack (estradiol) 0.06% gel and Ovestin® (estriol 0.1%) 1mg cream is now available to meet normal demand. As a result a number of Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) **have now expired**.Any prescriptions for these products must now be dispensed in accordance with the prescription, and the SSPs are no longer valid for use.[See PSNC's top tips for claiming SSPs](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=13c119c64e&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **NHSmail changes: keeping your account active.**To increase the security of NHSmail, the NHSmail team will shortly be making changes to the system which will impact users.From 1st December 2022, personal NHSmail accounts which are not used **for 30 days** will be marked inactive and inactive accounts which are not activated within the following 30 days will be deleted. If a personal NHSmail account is ‘deleted’; it can be **restored within 30 days by raising an NHSmail ticket**. But, if an account is not restored within that period, it will be permanently deleted, and it will not be able to be restored.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ca9f34cf7c&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Mandatory National Audit |

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| **Mandatory national audit announced**PSNC and NHS England have agreed that the 2022/23 national clinical audit will focus on valproate, with the aim of reducing the potential harm caused by taking valproate during pregnancy. **The audit must be completed by all community pharmacy contractors as this is part of their NHS contractual requirements.**Contractors will be required to conduct the audit over a **six-week consecutive period**, however, the workload associated with the audit is expected to be manageable for all contractors as the number of patients covered by the audit is small.[Learn more about the audit](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=1df18e36fc&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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| **Training - VirtualOutcomes** |

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| Avon is very lucky to have access to VirtualOutcomes online training, please have a look and make use of this valuable resource.VirtualOutcomes have just launched their latest training course to support pharmacies in completing the mandatory NHSE Clinical Audit on valproate.  Please and attached a flyer regarding this.  |

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| [**Click here for VirtualOutcomes**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6a55bd22c6&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Click here for the flyer on Valproate**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=9626055370&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| PSNC Webinars |

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| **Protecting pharmacy services: please share your views**PSNC is hosting two webinars to hear from contractors about the current critical situation for many pharmacies and the steps they may be willing to take should urgent relief not be forthcoming from Government. Please sign up to come and hear from and talk to PSNC Chief Executive Janet Morrison and Negotiating Team Members:[Wednesday 7th December, 19.30 – 21.00](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=0e265a5f1f&e=3e5221b889)[Wednesday 14th December, 19.30 – 21.00](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=39f42b2a28&e=3e5221b889)[Read more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=2f52b043b1&e=3e5221b889) |

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