



Dear Community Pharmacy Somerset owners and teams,

As we enter the final days of 2021, I wanted to say a big thank you to you and everyone in your pharmacy teams who have worked tirelessly through another extremely busy and challenging year. To have achieved what you have achieved, during the ongoing pandemic, is amazing. In a busy year I wanted to highlight a couple of your significant achievements: The number of patients you have protected through 'flu vaccinations are incredible and is a massive increase on what was a busy 2020 season. This ongoing effort will significantly help with reducing winter pressures on our local healthcare system. Supported by a big effort from your LPC to co-ordinate and train through the summer and autumn, GP CPCS is growing month by month and on average you are helping patients get care from the right provider at a rate over eight times the national average! To do this through not just the pandemic, but challenges with staff availability and locum shortages requires a dedication to patient care that is outstanding. The coming weeks show no sign of settling down, with the challenges of a new variant, the drive to 'get boosted now,' and the normal winter pressures we must face. I know you will rise to this challenge as you have done every time. As we head into the brief Christmas break, I hope you all manage to get some rest and enjoy time with those dearest to you and do take a moment to reflect on the massive impact you have had through the year.

Your LPC is here for you, as you are for your customers/patients.

Best wishes

James Nicholas

Chair, Somerset LPC.