

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Community Pharmacy Somerset Bulletin

This briefing is critical reading as it contains important information and actions required to support you, your team and your business.

Dear Community Pharmacy Somerset contractor colleagues,

Welcome to the New Year! On behalf of your LPC we are pledged to supporting you, solving problems, getting best out of services and representing your voice and needs continually in Somerset and in the regional and national dialogues that we participate in.

We acknowledge and appreciate the hard work you all do, day in day out in your pharmacy teams. Leading and supporting “Team Community Pharmacy Somerset” is our privilege and we pledge to make positive differences this year on your behalf. This will be a big year with much to work through.

Please do you reach out to us to let us know if there is anything we should be doing more of and dealing with on your behalf - email somersetlpc@gmail.com

On behalf of the Community Pharmacy Somerset LPC team, our best wishes for the year.

CEO Michael and Team

We would like you to read and absorb the whole content of this bulletin, **in particular, we draw your attention to the following items:**

- **Community pharmacist Independent Prescribing (IP) training scoping survey - Reminder to please complete by 8 January 2023.**
- **PQS Domain 3 – Healthy Living Support - Weight management compulsory campaign starts 3 January 2023.**
- **Serious risks associated with exposure to valproate during pregnancy.**
- **Easyhaler salbutamol - supply issue.**
- **HEE Clinical examination skills training for community pharmacists.**

Kindest regards. Community Pharmacy Somerset.

Community pharmacist Independent Prescribing (IP) training scoping survey

[Reminder to please complete by 8 January 2023]

- Please could all pharmacists who work in community pharmacy in Somerset, whether or not you are interested in becoming an independent prescriber (IP), are already an IP, are training to be an IP or are unsure [complete a very short survey here](#) to help your LPC to gauge demand and plan for independent prescribing opportunities in Somerset – especially in regard to accessing a Designated Prescribing Practitioner to supervise your learning and development.
- The survey will take you no more than 30 seconds to complete, with an optional further 30 seconds to support us even further in our planning.
- Please complete this by 8 January 2023 and pass this on to your community pharmacist colleagues so we get as complete a picture across the system as possible – we are sharing this via several different routes, so if you have already completed the survey there is no need to complete it again - thanks.



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*****IMPORTANT ACTIONS FOR ALL PHARMACIES*****

NHS.net email is used for essential services such as Turning Point, GP-CPCS referrals outside of Somerset and in cases of PharmOutcomes outage. Please continue to remind your whole team, including relief staff and all locums, to check your NHS.NET email regularly throughout each day your pharmacy is open and action the messages.

Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022-23

1. PQS Domain 3 – Healthy Living Support - Weight management compulsory campaign starts 3 January 2023 [Actions]

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

- The national mandatory **Weight Management** campaign commences **3 January, 2023** and will run until **Sunday 29 January, 2023**.
- This campaign is part of Community Pharmacies' contractual obligations to participate in up to six health campaigns at the request of NHS England (NHS England and PSNC agreed that contractors will only have to participate in one mandatory national health campaign for 2022/23).
- The campaign aims to promote adult nutrition and physical activity. As part of the [Healthy living support domain 3 of the 2022/23 PQS](#).
- Pharmacy teams are required to proactively discuss weight management with a minimum of 25 patients and refer at least four patients (who meets the criteria for referral) to either a Local Authority funded tier 2 weight management service or the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme.
- Pharmacy teams can use the campaign materials as conversation starters to assist them with meeting these requirements.
 - A [guidance leaflet](#) has been provided to support community pharmacy teams' conversations with patients.
 - Downloadable [posters and information cards are available at the Department of Health and Social Care website](#) to advertise the campaign and prompt conversations with patients.
 - [The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Healthy Lifestyles website](#) has useful signposting to local and national services to support people to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle.

Recording of Conversations:

- There is a requirement for all pharmacies to upload their data for this Health Campaign onto PharmOutcomes, a manual tally sheet is attached for you to record these conversations for your convenience.
- You will be required to complete an evaluation survey on PharmOutcomes between 13-24 February to report your figures; even if it is a nil return (further details about how to complete the survey will be issued in due course).

2. Last chance to book! CPPE Optimising inhaler technique: improving outcomes, face to face workshop [Book now!]

**ACTION
REQUIRED**



CPPE 

- To help you meet the Respiratory domain of the PQS 2022-23 a face-to-face [CPPE Optimising inhaler technique: improving outcomes workshop](#) is available to book now.

- This workshop is for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and foundation trainee pharmacists at The Canalside Conference Centre (M5, near Junction 24) on Wed 11 January 2023.
- Please book now as places are strictly limited to 26 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians or trainee pharmacists. [Booking link](#) (login required).



Pharmaceutical Services
Negotiating Committee

PSNC's [PQS hub page](#) continues to be updated as additional information, resources and FAQs to support the PQS 2022-23 are published.

Operations

1. Serious risks associated with exposure to valproate during pregnancy [Continued actions]



- Babies exposed to valproate during pregnancy are at very high risk (30-40 in every 100) of neurodevelopment disability - such as lower intelligence and autistic spectrum disorders, and also at risk (10 in every 100) of other birth defects.
- In 2022, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) considered a review of safety data relating to valproate. This review included prescribing data showing continued use of valproate in female patients and also some use during pregnancy, as well as evolving information about potential risks in male patients.
- This information and proposed recommendations to further strengthen safety measures for valproate containing medicines are outlined in the [MHRA Drug Safety Update volume 16, issue 5: December 2022: Valproate: reminder of current Pregnancy Prevention Programme requirements; information on new safety measures to be introduced in the coming months.](#)
- Please note that the proposed measures have not yet been introduced. Advice on the timing of introduction will be provided once the CHM's implementation group has finalised its plans and after full engagement with stakeholders. **Continued action needed at the moment is to ensure that women of childbearing potential considered for, or receiving valproate are on the [Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme](#).**
- A useful summary of the responsibilities of health professionals, including pharmacists, can be found at the [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\) High risk medicines: valproate webpage](#).

2. Easyhaler salbutamol - supply issue [Actions]



- During the current supply disruption to Easyhaler salbutamol, which is projected to be resolved during January 2023, NHS Somerset has asked us to remind/let you know that:
 - Easyhaler salbutamol is the recommended first choice of short-acting agonist on the NHS Somerset formulary, so it is important that you ensure patients do not run out of their supply, especially at this time of year and the current level of respiratory exacerbations.

- If you are unable to obtain Easyhaler salbutamol, NHS Somerset recommends maintaining a dry powder inhaler prescribed as the **Salbulin novolizer + device** or **Ventolin accuhaler (200micrograms)**.
 - If these are not immediately available then patients may need to be switched to a **Salamol MDI**.
 - Please notify your GP practices about which alternatives you have in stock, and if patients have to be temporarily switched to another inhaler device, please support your patient as part of the [New Medicines Service](#). This includes demonstrating the revised technique, asking the patient to demonstrate their correct technique to you, signposting to videos and leaflets to support their use of the new device, including:
 - [NHS Somerset](#)
 - [Asthma UK](#)
 - [Right Breath](#)
 - A reminder that:
 - Matching the type of inhaler device to the patient is critical for optimal control and adherence to treatment.
 - The most cost effective inhaler treatment is the one which a patient will actually use correctly.
 - Patients with asthma who are using a SABA more than 3 times a week require an asthma review.
 - Please refer to the [NHS Somerset Respiratory Guidelines](#) for further details including asthma, COPD guidance, a wealth of other information and resources to help you to work with patients to optimise their treatment in line with national guidance and an [Inhaler Venn diagram](#) to support the use of the least ecologically damaging inhaler.
 - And to make sure you are up to date yourself, please book your place at the [CPPE Optimising inhaler technique: improving outcomes workshop](#) at the Canalside Conference Centre (M5, near Junction 24) on Wed 11 January 2023, 7:00-9:00pm – see above.
- 3. Community pharmacy contraception service specification published [Information]**
- The specification for the [Pharmacy contraception service](#) is now available for to download from the NHS Business Services Authority's website.
 - The specification includes the training requirements for the service is [expected to commence in early 2023](#), with the service's exact start date yet to be agreed.

Professional development and wellbeing

1. HEE Clinical examination skills training for community pharmacists [Action]


- Clinical examination skills training to increase the confidence of community pharmacists to manage the types of clinical cases that are increasingly presenting in the community pharmacy setting is now available.
- Content is being delivered in a flexible way designed to meet the needs of community pharmacists.
- The training will consist of a series of short modules based on 4 key themes:
 - Dermatology
 - Cardiology
 - Ear, Nose and Throat
 - Paediatrics
- All modules will end with an assessment and pharmacists will be given a certificate of completion when they pass.

- Before accessing the modules pharmacists will be required to complete a 'gateway module' on structured history taking and identification of serious conditions.
- Training to be delivered between now and March 2024. We would encourage all community pharmacists to take up this fantastic opportunity. For those of you who are considering doing your independent prescribing training, completing these modules will put you in a great starting place.
- To find out more and register your interest in this training, please [click here](#).


2. New Year 2023 - a good time to plan your Continuing Professional Development [Action]

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

CPPE Online Workshops
January - March 2023



CPPE
CENTRE FOR PHARMACY
POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION



Please [click here](#) to view all CPPE workshops

3. New online eating disorder learning for community pharmacy teams [Information]

- Health Education England has worked in partnership with NHS England and the charity [Beat](#) to create a suite of eating disorder learning materials. Alongside a host of training materials for health and care professionals, the suite now contains [training materials on eating disorders specifically for community pharmacy teams, dietitians and oral health teams](#) in the form of a series of pre-recorded webinars.
- The GPhC is calling on all community pharmacy teams to complete these programmes to ensure they are trained to understand, identify and respond appropriately when meeting a patient with a possible eating disorder.

4. Inclusive Pharmacy Practice (IPP) Bulletin published [Information]

- Inclusive Pharmacy Practice is a joint initiative by NHS England with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK and 13 other national partner organisations.
- In the latest [Inclusive Pharmacy Practice Bulletin](#) read about the ways we can work together to improve the diversity of people in senior pharmacy professional leadership roles. This issue shares examples from a range of pharmacy organisations, including useful resources, case studies and interviews with pharmacy professionals about their career journeys.

5. Somerset Emotional Wellbeing (SEW) [Information]

- A series of [Mental and emotional wellbeing support podcasts](#) has been provided by Dr Andrew Tresidder, Pastoral Care Cell Clinical Lead, Somerset CCG & Dr Peter Bagshaw, Somerset CCG to support everyone working in healthcare.
- New episode(s):
 - [Talking therapies](#)
 - [Dyslexia and wellbeing](#)



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