

**Wednesday 22nd February 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 latest edition of the Somerset LPC bulletin; thank you for everything you continue to do to provide first class services to the population of our beautiful county.

### **An update on the Transforming Pharmacy Representation programme**

I wrote to you last month to update you on the ongoing Transformation Pharmacy Representation (TAPR) activity that will bring changes to how you are represented nationally and locally. As part of this process we put forward proposals which included remaining as a Somerset representative body with an updated constitution and a short delay in the start of our next committee cycle (to July) to allow for new elections. I am pleased to say that after our Special General Meeting there was a 100% vote in favour of the proposals - see [Notification of Somerset LPC SGM voting](#). Thank you for your support and we will now move forward with the proposals, which include formally changing our name from Somerset LPC to Community Pharmacy Somerset and elections for the new committee. Details on how to put yourself forward for elections will be coming out to you in the next few weeks and I encourage you all to consider putting yourself forward. Whilst this programme of work has taken place, the committee and officers have continued to work hard on your behalf and will continue to do so as we move forward through another busy year.

Kind regards,  
James Nicholas.  
Chair, Community Pharmacy Somerset.

### **IN THIS BULLETIN:**

In this edition we continue to outline your current priorities for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022-23 - [Have you made your PQS declaration yet?](#) Community pharmacy contractors have until **11.59pm on Friday 3rd March 2023** to make their Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022/23 declaration through the [MYS portal](#), as the window for claiming this payment will then close. [Find out more here.](#)

We also particularly draw your attention to:

- [Pharmacy Pressures Survey: Deadline extended – please complete now.](#)
- [Retirement of group A streptococcus interim clinical guidance and return to previous sore throat guidance.](#)
- [Dexcom One Transmitter to be added to March 2023 Drug Tariff.](#)
- [New HRT pre-payment certificate.](#)
- [RPS/Royal College of GPs NHS CPCS Clinical Training for community pharmacists.](#)
- [New CPPE online workshops for your CPD.](#)

We hope you enjoy this bulletin and find it helpful.

## Contents:

### Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022-23:

1. [The PQS 2022-23 declaration period is open until 11:59pm on Friday 03 March 2023 – claim now! \[Action\]](#)
2. [Other current priorities in the PQS 2022-23 for you to focus on now \[Action\]](#)
3. [CPPE resources to support the PQS 2022-23 \[Action\]](#)

### Operations:

1. [Pharmacy Pressures Survey: Deadline extended – please complete now \[Action\]](#)
2. [Retirement of group A strep interim clinical guidance \[Information\]](#)
3. [New HRT pre-payment certificate \[Information\]](#)

### Finance:

1. [The PQS 2022-23 declaration period is open until 11:59pm on Friday 03 March 2023 \[Action\]](#)
2. [Dexcom One Transmitter to be added to March 2023 Drug Tariff \[Action\]](#)

### Professional development and wellbeing:

1. [RPS/Royal College of GPs NHS CPCS Clinical Training for community pharmacists - Book now! \[Action\]](#)
2. [HEE Clinical examination skills training for community pharmacists \[Action\]](#)
3. [CPPE Leading for Change - Enhance your leadership skills \[Information\]](#)
4. [CPPE Over-the-counter desogestrel progestogen-only pills case study \[Information\]](#)
5. [CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician programme \(ACPT\) \[Information\]](#)
6. [New CPPE online workshops for your CPD – book now! \[Action\]](#)

**\*\*\*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

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\***

## **The PQS 2022-23 declaration period is open until 11:59pm on Friday 03 March 2023 – claim now! [Action]**

- You can claim your PQS payment using the MYS application for the PQS 2022-23 during the declaration period which is **between 9am on 06 Feb 2023 and 11.59pm on 03 Mar 2023**.
- You must have evidence to demonstrate meeting the gateway criteria and the domains that you have claimed for **by the end of 31 Mar 2023**.
- NHSBSA has published the questions which will be included in the 2022-23 PQS declaration so you can view these ahead of making your declaration.
- The questions are available on the [NHSBSA PQS hub page](#); you should scroll down to the 'Declaration questions' section where you can access the questions in a Word document.
- [Find out more about making a PQS Declaration at PSNC website.](#)



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.**

### **Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) - Introduction**

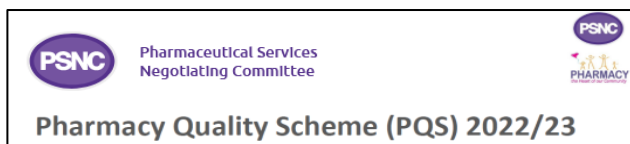
The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) forms part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). It supports delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan and rewards community pharmacy contractors that deliver quality criteria.

- In previous years Somerset community pharmacy contractors have been amazing by achieving the criteria, supporting patients and claiming all PQS payments that they can.
- Your LPC appreciates that many contractors will also be looking to their HQ for specific PQS completion guidance; we would also flag that those independents who are NPA members will be receiving PQS support packs too.

If you have any questions about the PQS 2022-23 please contact: [yvonne.somersetlpc@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.somersetlpc@gmail.com) or [michael.somersetlpc@gmail.com](mailto:michael.somersetlpc@gmail.com)

### **Resources to support you:**

- **[PSNC PQS 2022-23 Digital guide, workbook and other resources:](#)**



PSNC has published a range of resources to support you to meet the requirements of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022-23 including:

- [PSNC PQS 2022-23 Digital Guide](#) that walks you through each of the requirements of the scheme.
- [PSNC Briefing 031/22: Pharmacy Quality Scheme – Summary of the training requirements for the 2022-23 scheme.](#)
- [PSNC Action and Evidence Portfolio Workbook](#) containing questions for you and your team to find out if you are meeting the requirements of the gateway/domains, and much more.
- [PSNC PQS 2022-23 page](#) containing further information, resources and links to support you through the PQS 2022-23.

**1. Other current priorities in the PQS 2022-23 for you to focus on now [Action]**



Date	Actions
<p><b>From 16 Jan 2023 - NHS Profile manager can be updated</b></p>	<p><b>Addressing Unwarranted Variation in Care domain - Palliative and End of Life Care Action Plan</b></p> <p><b>As soon as possible after 16 Jan 2023 and by the end of 31 Mar 2023:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must update your <a href="#">NHS Profile Manager</a> if you routinely hold the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines listed below and in the in the <a href="#">PQS Drug Tariff</a> and support local access to parenteral haloperidol.</li> <li>• If NHS Profile Manager is updated centrally by your head office, it will need to be confirmed that this will be done by the end of 31 Mar 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>The 16 critical end of life medicines are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cyclizine solution for injection ampoules 50mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Cyclizine tablets 50mg</li> <li>▪ Dexamethasone solution for injection ampoules 3.3mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Dexamethasone tablets 2mg</li> <li>▪ Haloperidol tablets 500 mcg</li> <li>▪ Hyoscine butylbromide solution for injection 20mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Levomepromazine solution for injection ampoules 25mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Metoclopramide solution for injection ampoules 10mg/2ml</li> <li>▪ Midazolam solution for injection ampoules 10mg/2ml</li> <li>▪ Morphine sulfate oral solution 10g/5ml</li> <li>▪ Morphine sulfate solution for injection ampoules 10mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Morphine sulfate solution for injection ampoules 30mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Oxycodone solution for injection ampoules 10mg/1ml</li> <li>▪ Oxycodone oral solution sugar free 5mg/5ml</li> <li>▪ Sodium chloride 0.9% solution for injection ampoules 10ml</li> <li>▪ Water for injections 10ml.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are not a stockholder of these 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines, you are not required to update NHS Profile Manager. But by the end of 31 Mar 2023, you must have a <b>Palliative and end of life care action</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>plan</b> in place to use when you do not have the required stock of the 16 critical medicines listed above or parenteral haloperidol available for a patient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The action plan must include collated information from pharmacies in your area to be able to aid a patient, relative/carer in obtaining medication as swiftly as possible by redirecting them to the nearest open community pharmacy that stocks the 16 critical end of life medicines and/or parenteral haloperidol.</li> <li>• The action plan for 2022-23 must be available for inspection from the end of 31 Mar 2023 at premises level.</li> </ul> <p><b>The action plan must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An awareness of any locally commissioned services for palliative care including any on call and delivery arrangements.</li> <li>• A list of community pharmacies stocking the 16 critical medicines for palliative/end of life care in your area and noting the ability to check the Directory of Services (DoS) to find pharmacies stocking these medicines.</li> <li>• Details of where parenteral haloperidol can be accessed locally, e.g. through any local commissioning arrangements.</li> <li>• Awareness of other support services that may be useful for patients/relatives/carers.</li> </ul> <p><b>See the following resources for full details:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 13 of the <a href="#">Drug Tariff Part VIIA - Pharmacy Quality Scheme (England) 2022-23</a></li> <li>• Addressing Unwarranted Variation in Care domain of the <a href="#">PSNC Pharmacy Quality Scheme website</a> for full details</li> </ul>
<p><b>PQS: Antibiotic Review Data Published</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has published a spreadsheet showing which pharmacies have submitted data for their antibiotic review as part of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022/23.</li> <li>• On the spreadsheet, contractors have been allocated either a green, orange or red colour.</li> <li>• As previously advised, the deadline to start the audit was <b>04 Feb 2023</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Find out more here.</a></li> </ul>

## 2. CPPE resources to support the PQS 2022-23 [Action]



### Pharmacy Quality Scheme



- CPPE has provided [Pharmacy Quality Scheme webpages](#) to support you to meet the training requirements of the scheme.
- There is a page for each domain including information on the learning and assessments developed or hosted by CPPE and/or links to required learning from other providers, as relevant.
- One of the key differences in this year's PQS compared to previous years is the inclusion of 'validity periods' for learning. This means that you may be required to repeat training and e-assessments that you have completed previously, depending on the stated validity period and when you last completed the training and e-assessments.

- CPPE has included a **useful tracker** on the [PQS home page](#) to help you to easily identify which learning and e-assessments you need to complete to meet the requirements of the PQS 2022-23. The tracker works for GPhC registered pharmacy professionals and non-registrants with a [non-GPhC registrant account](#).

## Operations

### 1. Pharmacy Pressures Survey: Deadline extended – please complete now [Action]



- The deadline for the PSNC nationwide Pharmacy Pressures Survey has been extended.
- If pharmacy owners and team members can please spare just a few minutes, completing this survey would really help the efforts to get policymakers to take action to mitigate the immense pressures you are facing.
- PSNC will use the survey results in negotiations, conversations with MPs, Ministers and in national media work as part of the [joint #saveourpharmacies campaign](#).
- Please click below to complete the relevant survey to your role:
  - [Pharmacy business owners/head office representatives survey](#)
  - [Pharmacy team members survey](#)
- [Download a copy of the survey questions and learn more about the survey here.](#)

### 2. Retirement of group A strep interim clinical guidance [Information]

- NHS England has retired interim clinical guidance which lowered the threshold for prescribing antibiotics with potential strep A infections, following a recent reduction in infection rates.
- Clinicians have been advised to 'continue to be alert to the severe complications of GAS and maintain a high degree of clinical suspicion when assessing patients'.
- NHS England, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and relevant bodies will continue to monitor the situation closely.
- [NICE Sore Throat \(Acute\) NG84 guideline](#) has been reinstated for all age groups.
- [Find out more here.](#)

### 3. New HRT pre-payment certificate [Information]

- The new HRT pre-payment certificate (PPC) is set to launch on 1 April 2023 and will cost the same as two single prescription charges – currently £18.70
- Patients will apply for the HRT PPC through the NHS Business Services Authority or in person at a pharmacy registered to sell PPCs. It will be valid for 12 months for any HRT items licensed for use for menopause in the UK and listed on the HRT medicines list published in the Drug Tariff Part XVI HRT items.
- Prescribers should issue HRT prescriptions separately; if a patient with a valid HRT PPC presents a mixed prescription and asks to be exempted from HRT charges, the pharmacist may refuse to dispense the mixed prescription or may agree to dispense just the HRT or non-HRT items. If this happens, patients should request new prescriptions for the items that are not dispensed. Alternatively, they can pay for all items and receive a FP57 receipt and refund form to claim back the charges paid for the HRT items covered by their HRT PPC.
- There will be an exemption category on pharmacy IT systems and paper prescription forms. Where pharmacy IT systems have not yet updated to implement the new HRT PPC, pharmacy

teams should select the prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) exemption until the new HRT PPC exemption category is implemented in their system.

- Updated paper FP10s with the category 'W' for HRT PPC will be put into circulation from the beginning of April 2023 but old stock should be used until supplies are used up. Guidance for workarounds where old prescription forms or tokens are presented, or dispensing systems have not been updated, will be issued in due course.
- [Find out more here.](#)

## Finance

1. The PQS 2022-23 declaration period is open until 11:59pm on Friday 03 March 2023 – claim now! [Action]



[See PQS 2022-23 declaration period article above](#)

2. Dexcom One Transmitter to be added to March 2023 Drug Tariff [Action]



- The Department of Health of Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that the Dexcom One Transmitter will be added to Part IXA of the March 2023 Drug Tariff.
- Previously, patients were advised to obtain the free-of-charge Dexcom One transmitters directly from pharmacies, without a prescription. PSNC told DHSC and Dexcom that these distribution arrangements for transmitters are unacceptable because they result in extra unfunded activity for community pharmacies. Acting upon these concerns, both DHSC and Dexcom agreed to add the Dexcom One transmitter to the Drug Tariff from March.
- Contractors should note the changes to reimbursement prices for the Dexcom sensor packs from March. **To avoid any reimbursement risks, pharmacy contractors should avoid holding extra stock of the sensors and ensure prescriptions dispensed in February are submitted on time.**
- [Find out more here.](#)

## Professional development and wellbeing

1. RPS/Royal College of GPs NHS CPCS Clinical Training for community pharmacists - Book now! [Action]



- How confident are you in managing clinical conditions referred to you via the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service?
- The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Royal College of GPs are providing funded interactive webinars to help you to develop your knowledge and skills in core clinical areas, to give you the skills to diagnose, intervene, and help patients directly.
  - Course #6 - Women's Health
  - Course #5 - Clinical Skills
  - Course #4 - Paediatrics
  - Course #3 - Respiratory - LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND!

- Course #2 - Dermatology - LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND!
- Bonus Dermatology Webinar: Common childhood skin conditions
- Course #1 - Eye Care - LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND!
- All these CPCS courses are free to attend!
- [Find out more and book here.](#)

**2. HEE Clinical examination skills training for community pharmacists – we strongly advise you to take up this funded opportunity – limited places available [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.
- [Find out more and register your interest in this training here.](#)

**3. CPPE Leading for Change - Enhance your leadership skills [Information]**

- Booking for the CPPE Leading for change spring cohorts is now open to pharmacy professionals leading a team or service in any area of practice. This programme presents you with an opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and self-development.
- Over six months, you will learn how, through better leadership, you can support national priorities and drivers for change in the NHS – and along the way, you'll have ample opportunity to network with peers.
- [Find out more and register at the CPPE website.](#)

**4. CPPE Over-the-counter desogestrel progestogen-only pills case study [Information]**

- This short CPPE e-learning programme aims to help ensure shared decision making and person-centred care when selling the desogestrel progestogen-only pill over the counter using a person-centred approach. The programme also provides learning on sexual health and contraception.
- [Access this short e-learning at the CPPE website.](#)



## 5. CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician programme (ACPT) [Information]

- Pharmacy technicians registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) are invited to take part in the 12-month CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT) programme, which aims to help you develop the skills required to be a safe final accuracy checker.
- The programme also supports you to improve your leadership skills in directing the dispensary team and supporting the multi-disciplinary team in delivering patient-facing services.
- Each place costs £330 including VAT. Check the [eligibility criteria](#) and [find out more and apply at the CPPE website](#).

## 6. New CPPE online workshops for your CPD – book now! [Action]

- CPPE workshops up until the end of June 2023 are now available for booking.

New topics include:

- [Supporting people living with frailty.](#)
- [Medicines reconciliation in transfer of care.](#)
- [Familial hypercholesterolaemia.](#)

**ACTION  
REQUIRED**

CPPE online Workshops  
February to June 2023

CPPE   
CENTRE FOR PHARMACY  
POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

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

## LPC Contact details

### Contact details:

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