

**Wednesday 22nd March 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 pharmacy colleagues in Somerset,**

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.



**#Save Our Pharmacies Campaign: Request for action from your Chair.**

- We are encouraging you, your colleagues, friends and family to get fully behind the [#Save Our Pharmacies](#) national campaign. We want to see thousands of citizens, patients and pharmacy staff in Somerset, get this petition promoted and signed! The public #SaveOurPharmacies petition reached 33,200 signatories on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This is a good start, but we need to continue to build the numbers significantly to show the strength of support for our cause.
- Unity is strength and when speaking as a single and loud voice, people have the power to make the politicians think and do differently. Please can we ask that you ask your colleagues, family, friends, patients and customers to fully push the campaign? The goal is to get those in power at present to fix their present contract funding mess.
- We are promoting the campaign by all means available, but you as pharmacy colleagues in our Somerset communities are our most powerful way of getting traction. We urge you to do the following simple things:
  - [Sign and share the #Save Our Pharmacies petition here.](#)
  - Promote within your pharmacies, friends, family, colleagues, patients and customers to get more people to sign and help gain traction.
  - Use the hashtag **#SaveOurPharmacies** when promoting on your social media and make use of the resources on the [campaign website](#) to help promote the petition and wider campaign.
  - Write to your MP! We have provided simple guidance to do this at the [LPC website](#).

**In summary, please, sign, share and stand with us in this campaign - NOW! - Happy campaigning!**

Read about the [community pharmacy emergency summit](#) held this week, attended by 15 MPs.

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

- **New clinical skills training offer for community pharmacists launched.**
- **Emergency contraception, safeguarding & child exploitation online training.**
- **Prescription charge rises to £9.65 from 1st April 2023.**
- **HRT pre-payment certificate guidance published.**
- **Whole-pack dispensing of sodium valproate to be made mandatory.**
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We hope you enjoy this bulletin and find it helpful.

Kindest regards

James Nicholas,

Chair, Community Pharmacy Somerset

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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.***

# Professional development and wellbeing

## 1. New clinical skills training offer for community pharmacists launched [Action]



- Health Education England is making available 10,000 module places for clinical skills training for community pharmacists to be delivered by [CliniSkills](#) between 17 April 2023 and March 2024.
- This will give community pharmacists the opportunity to build on their existing clinical examination and consultation skills - to assess, treat and manage common health problems.
- Following completion of a required, online gateway module on history taking and identification of serious conditions, you can choose your preferred journey through four optional modules, based on professional interests. These modules cover four key themes: dermatology, cardiology, paediatrics, and ear, nose and throat.
- The content will be delivered online using a flexible and responsive eLearning system, with optional face-to-face attendance.
- This offer is available to community pharmacists, including part time staff and locums working in community pharmacy.
- To register and find out more about the training visit the [CliniSkills website](#).
- To find out more about the Pharmacy Integration Programme, visit the [Health Education England website](#).

## 2. Emergency contraception, safeguarding & child exploitation online training [Book now]

- This training is required for community pharmacists to deliver Emergency contraceptive (EC) services in Somerset under the Somerset County Council PGDs.
- It is for pharmacists new to providing this service or those due for refresher training (minimum every 4 years). Access the PGDs and supporting resources at the [LPC website](#).
- This programme includes:
  - Levonelle and Ulipristal acetate PGDs.
  - Sexual health.
  - Safeguarding and child exploitation.
  - Local referral pathways.
- Next training date (7:00-9:30pm online) to be decided once enough people have joined the waiting list.
- Email: [anne.somersetlpc@gmail.com](mailto:anne.somersetlpc@gmail.com) to join the waiting list with details of the pharmacies in Somerset that you work in and your GPhC number.



## 3. New CPPE online workshops for your CPD [Book now]

- CPPE workshops up until the end of June 2023 are available for booking. New topics include:
  - [Supporting people living with frailty](#).
  - [Medicines reconciliation in transfer of care](#).
  - [Familial hypercholesterolaemia](#).
- [Click here](#) to view all upcoming CPPE workshops.



## Customers

### 1. Prescription charge rises to £9.65 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 [Action]



- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has increased the NHS prescription charge to £9.65 per prescription item from 1st April 2023.
- Please continue to help patients to save money by signposting them to the [NHS Pre-payment Certificate](#).
- PSNC is in the process of updating its charge card and PPC poster. These will be available on their website in due course. [Read more here](#).

### 2. HRT pre-payment certificate guidance published [Information]

- To reduce prescription costs for women receiving Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), on 1 April the Government is launching the [HRT Pre-Payment Certificate \(HRT-PPC\)](#).
- To enable this, from 1 April prescribers will need to issue prescriptions for HRT items (which are listed in the Drug Tariff as being HRT licensed for the treatment of menopause) as single-item prescriptions (i.e., separate from other prescription items). Further guidance for prescribers on the HRT PPC will be published in due course.
- The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has published [HRT PPC guidance](#).
- PSNC will shortly publish a briefing containing supplementary information and a comprehensive set of FAQs to support contractors and their teams.
- View a copy of the [HRT-PPC poster](#) here.
- View a [HRT-PPC or PPC handy comparison table](#) to help to see whether patients would be better off with a full certificate or just the HRT one (courtesy of Amanda Smith @HfxAmanda).

## Operations

### 1. Whole-pack dispensing of sodium valproate to be made mandatory [Action]



- [Whole-pack dispensing of medicines containing sodium valproate](#); rounding up or down to the nearest quantity prescribed, will apply as soon as the amendment to the Human Medicines Regulations (HMR) 2012 comes “into force”.
- The move will prevent the drug being dispensed in unlabelled white boxes, without the statutory patient information leaflet (PIL) and associated warnings, helping to address concerns that some women remain unaware of the significant risks posed to their unborn baby should they fall pregnant while taking sodium valproate.
- Pharmacists will be able to make an exception to whole-pack dispensing of medicines containing sodium valproate on an individual patient basis, where a risk assessment is in place that refers to the need for different packaging, such as a monitored dosage system.
- Consultation on flexibility to dispense up to 10% more or less of other medicines continues. The government has asked the administrations in England, Northern Ireland and Wales to decide how they want these to apply (implementation in Scotland is immediate).



## 2. MHRA Class 2 medicines recall: Pholcodine containing products [Action]



- A reminder that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for all pholcodine containing products (from various marketing authorisation holders).
- Following the conclusion of a review of post-marketing safety data by the MHRA, all pholcodine containing medicines are being recalled and withdrawn from the UK as a precaution. [Find out more here.](#)

## 3. Resources to support general practice to refer patients to the NHS CPCS [Information]

- New [resources to support general practice](#) are now available from DHSC.
- The digital materials were tested by practices – who found them a useful resource when making referrals.
- They include a patient leaflet and easy read version, poster, digital display screen, social media images and accompanying text and a briefing sheet that explains how to use them. Translations of the leaflet are available in ten languages.



## Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022-23

### 1. Current priorities and important dates for the PQS 2022-23 for you to focus on now [Action]



Date	Actions
31st March 2023	Deadline for ensuring the requirements of the gateway and quality criteria (excluding those that need to be met by the day of the declaration (see above)) have been met.
31st March 2023	MYS audit collection tool closes at 11.59pm for the antimicrobial stewardship criterion.
3rd April 2023	Contractors will be paid their PQS payment.
5th April 2023	Deadline to have claimed payment for the provision of at least 20 NMS since 1st April 2022 (the Advanced services gateway criterion).

Access PSNC's [PQS hub page here.](#)

## Finance

### 1. NHSE Terms of Service End of Year Requirements [Action]



- As part of the Terms of Service all community pharmacies are required to confirm they have completed the following requirements of the Terms of Service for this year 2022/23:
- The following annual declarations are required:

- Pharmacy Patient Leaflet Available - Deadline 31st March 2023
- Valproate audit. Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – see below.
- In House Clinical Audit - Your own Company (in house) clinical audit has been carried out. Deadline 31st March 2023.
- Annual Complaints Review for period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023. Deadline 30th April 2023.
- A self-declaration form is available on PharmOutcomes for all community pharmacies to complete.
- If you have any queries please email the NHSE SW Pharmacy team at: [england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net](mailto:england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net)

**2. URGENT : Submit your national valproate audit 2022/23 data by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 [Action]**



- By 31st March 2023, you must have completed the 2022/23 national clinical audit on valproate over a six-week consecutive period, and have submitted the data via the Valproate audit 2022/23 tab on the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal.
- [Find out more here.](#)

## LPC Contact details

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