

Wednesday 5th July 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.

As your LPC, your local health system support organisation, we have recently reflected on the means by which we connect with you as contractor teams. The routes to engage are many, by phone, email, website and our extensive Pharmacy Teams-PCN based WhatsApp groups.

We think this bulletin will still play a part in us regularly connecting with you, but we have taken the decision, based on feedback from your representatives on our committee, that reducing the frequency of this bulletin to every 4 weeks and its size by about half will make it quicker for us to create and for you to consume!

We hope you continue to enjoy this bulletin and find it helpful. Please let us know.

Kindest regards, Community Pharmacy Somerset. Email: somersetlpc@gmail.com

Contents:

Professional development and wellbeing:

1. **Independent Prescribing - a request to all pharmacists working in community pharmacy in Somerset [Action]**
2. **Clinical Skills Training for pharmacists [Action]**
3. **NHS England Workforce, Training and Education Directorate (previously Health Education England) - 2023/24 Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme Updates [Action]**

Operations:

1. **NHS Somerset Medicines Shortage Guidance [Action]**
2. **NHS South West Interpretation and Translation Services [Action]**

Finance:

1. **Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire 2023/24 [Action]**

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

A reminder that NHS.net email is used for services such as Turning Point, some GP-CPCS referrals and during 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. Independent Prescribing - a request to all pharmacists working in community pharmacy in Somerset [Action]



- Whether you are already an Independent Prescriber (IP), training now, about the start training, would like to train, are unsure or have no intention to train, please would you complete the [Community pharmacy Somerset independent prescribing survey](#) as soon as possible.
- If you have already completed the survey but something has changed since you first filled it in, please resubmit.
- Your completion of the survey will enable us to plan for the pilot opportunities available, capacity plan and keep you updated with any developments to facilitate as many community pharmacists to train as IPs before the first cohort of pharmacists join the register IP ready from summer 2026.

2. Clinical Skills Training for pharmacists [Action]



- A fully funded, free to access clinical examination skills training resource designed specifically for community pharmacists via CliniSkills.
- This training provides community pharmacists, including part-time staff and locums working the opportunity to build on their existing clinical examination and consultation skills - to assess, treat and manage common health problems.
- This is a great way to prepare to train as an IP, brush up on your skills for CPCS and other services.
- For more information, visit the [CliniSkills website](#).

3. NHS England Workforce, Training and Education Directorate (previously Health Education England) - 2023/24 Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme Updates [Action]



- The Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme Assessment Strategy and associated documents have been refreshed for 2023/24. The updated Strategy, Assessment Activities and Tools Guide and the Initial Education and Training Standards of Pharmacists (IETP) Assessment Learning Outcome Visual Mapping excel document, will be available on the [website](#) shortly.

➤ Foundation Training Year E-portfolio orientation webinars:

- In collaboration with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, NHS England will be hosting National Orientation Webinars for the Foundation Trainee Pharmacist E-portfolio.
- For more information and to register to attend please click the link on relevant session below:
 - [Foundation Trainee Pharmacist webinar 7-8pm, Mon 17 July 2023](#)
 - [Designated Supervisor webinar 7-8pm, Mon 14 August 2023](#)

Both webinars will be recorded and a link available from the [E-portfolio website page](#).

➤ Foundation Training Year E-portfolio drop-in sessions:

The NHS England Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme Team will be facilitating a series of drop-in sessions, to assist people to resolve issues with access, or provide further orientation and trouble shooting. These will run from July through to September, please see [website](#) for further information.

Operations

1. NHS Somerset Medicines Shortage Guidance [Action]

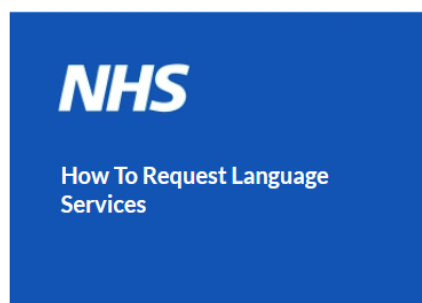


- The [NHS Somerset Medicines Shortage Guidance](#) has been updated. Please [print this out](#), **brief your team and display it clearly in your dispensary area**. In addition to the guidance in the protocol (below), remember to use your PCN WhatsApp groups to source stock for a quicker method than trying to get through via the telephone.
- There is a contractual requirement for medicines and appliances ordered on NHS prescriptions to be dispensed with reasonable promptness by community pharmacies. However, shortages of medicines are a frequent issue that can hinder pharmacy teams efforts to dispense medicines in a timely manner. This impacts on pharmacy team workload, local professional relationships, and patients.
- Staff working in primary care (both in general practice and community pharmacy) are often working under considerable pressure and we are aware that liaison between the two teams in relation to out of stock medicines can cause operational difficulties with patient care, and frustration for all parties.
- If a prescribed medicine is out of stock, pharmacy teams should ensure all options to help the patient get their treatment have been considered before contacting the prescriber. NHS England SW have issued **guidance (June 2018)**.
- Check if you can follow a **Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP)**.
- If the prescribing practice is contacted to discuss an alternative, let practice staff know when the item prescribed will be back in stock and which potential alternatives are in stock to avoid having to go through the process twice.
- Notify Community Pharmacy England if you are struggling to obtain products for less than or at the Drug Tariff price, so that they can negotiate a price concession with the Department of Health & Social Care.

2. NHS South West Interpretation and Translation Services [Action]



- Interpretation and translation services are available for Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental Practices when treating NHS Patients.
- See our [NHS South West Interpretation and Translation Services - Somerset poster](#) for further information.



Please print this poster out, brief your team and display it clearly in your dispensary area.

Finance

1. Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire 2023/24 [Action]

- Pharmacy contractors should have received communication from NHSBSA that the CPAF screening questionnaire went live on 03 July 2023 and will be available for completion until midnight on 30 July 2023.
- Completion of the screening questionnaire is compulsory, and the results of the questionnaire will form the basis upon which contractors will be asked to complete the full CPAF survey and may receive a contract monitoring visit later in the year.
- The questionnaire can be completed via the NHSBSA [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) or separately online if they are not yet signed up to MYS. You should have received details via email from NHSBSA about how to do this.
- [Find out more from the Community Pharmacy England.](#)

LPC Contact details

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