

Community Pharmacy Somerset Bulletin

2nd August 2023

Welcome to the new format Community Pharmacy Somerset bulletin; championing pharmacy and supporting your teams. The bulletin is circulated during the first week of each month, highlighting key issues and opportunities for you to support patients and the public of Somerset.

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

Please remind your whole team, including relief staff and all locums, to check your NHS.NET email regularly throughout every day your pharmacy is open and action the messages and referrals.

In this edition:

- [National shortage of GLP-1 receptor agonists.](#)
 - [Chloramphenicol patient group direction \(PGD\) – updated version.](#)
 - [NHS Health Check service.](#)
 - [Hospital@Home - please brief your whole team.](#)
 - [Community pharmacy promotional resources.](#)
 - [#AskAboutAsthma 2023 campaign.](#)
 - [Reform of the initial education and training of pharmacists \(IETP\).](#)
 - [Independent prescribing.](#)
 - [Opportunities to participate in cross-sector training of pharmacy technicians and trainee pharmacists.](#)
 - [CPPE online workshops – book now!](#)
 - [Diversity Trust learning event 13 Sep 2023 - hold the date.](#)
-

National shortage of GLP-1 receptor agonists



The Government has declared a national shortage of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists for type 2 diabetes until 2024.

[Find out more here.](#)

Chloramphenicol patient group direction (PGD) – updated version

The PGD for the supply of Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops and Chloramphenicol 1.0% eye ointment by Community Pharmacists in Somerset to patients for the treatment of acute superficial bacterial eye infections under the Somerset Minor Ailments Scheme has been updated. Please discard all previous versions and ensure all pharmacists who have completed the training and are operating this PGD have read and signed the new PGD. Their manager should also sign to authorise this.



[PGD MAS 1 Chloramphenicol V4.0 August-2023](#)

NHS Health Check service



Somerset Council has advised that there will be a change in the delivery model of the NHS Health Check service currently provided by Thrive Tribe. The service will be managed directly by the council from 1st April 2024. The council are keen to work with the LPC and member pharmacies in shaping what the future model and pharmacy offer will look like. The Council will be contacting pharmacies currently delivering the service to get your feedback.

If you have any initial questions, please email: nhshealthchecks@somerset.gov.uk

Hospital@Home - please brief your whole team about this including locums, part-time, relief and weekend staff



In Somerset, we are working with health and care partners to develop a new Hospital@Home programme (sometimes called 'Virtual wards') to care for patients at home safely, rather than being in hospital.

This service is a safe and efficient alternative to hospital care that is enhanced by technology. It supports patients to remain at home who would otherwise be in hospital to receive the acute care, monitoring and treatment that they need. This

includes either preventing avoidable admissions into hospital or supporting early discharge out of hospital. The service can help patients to complete their treatment or be monitored prior to surgery from the comfort of their own home.

Patients will be closely monitored in the comfort and familiarity of their own home by a team of experienced clinicians such as consultants, nurses, therapists, healthcare assistants and social workers.

Monitoring can be through a number of methods and these are tailored to each patient and could include telephone or video consultations, or remote digital monitoring devices.

Hospital@Home works in partnership with other healthcare services, such as primary care, social care, other NHS community teams, SWAST and NHS111.

What does this mean for you?

- Please ensure that any uniformed Nurse or health care professional are helped in a timely manner, so they can get back to care for their patients as soon as possible.
- If appropriate please see the staff member in a private area away from the general public, for their own safety/reassurance.
- Brief all staff members where the nearest NHS Specialist medicines pharmacy is located to avoid any delays in signposting our colleagues.



Community pharmacy promotional resources

A range of community pharmacy promotional resources have been published for use across the whole NHS to help communicate with the public what services and support can be accessed in community pharmacies across England.

The resources include a poster, social media assets and films to explain how pharmacy teams can help with minor illness, healthy living and taking medicines.

[Access the community pharmacy promotional resources here.](#)



#AskAboutAsthma 2023 campaign



The annual [NHS #AskAboutAsthma](#) awareness campaign returns from September 11-17.

#AskAboutAsthma is about making simple changes to children and young people's care that will make a big difference to how they experience their asthma.

The 2023 campaign theme is "[Widening our view](#)" and the campaign will be shining a light on the wider factors of CYP asthma care and to reach out to everyone who has asthma, their friends, families and the whole system that cares for them.



Reform of the initial education and training of pharmacists (IETP)

Are you fully up to date with how changes to initial education and training will impact on pharmacist foundation training from 2025/26?



Find out more on [NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education website](#), including the [Summer 2023 update](#).

Independent Prescribing

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.



This will enable us to 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.

[Complete the Community Pharmacy Somerset independent prescribing survey here.](#)

New CPPE programme - Preparing to train as an independent prescriber

A new CPPE learning programme [Preparing to train as an independent prescriber](#) launches on 12 September as an initial pilot cohort. If you are planning to train as an independent prescriber this would be an ideal programme to complete in preparation for your IP course.

This NHSE funded course is made up of four main components, including a self-directed e-course, a mandatory online workshop, and an optional online workshop and peer support sessions.

Pharmacists can join the [waiting list here](#) (login required) and you will then be notified when the programme is live for booking.

[Further information about the Preparing to train as an independent prescriber programme can be found here.](#)

NHS England (NHSE) funded Pharmacist Independent Prescribing Training 2023-24

NHS England commission three universities in the South West to provide Independent Prescribing courses for community pharmacists. Please see the information below on the next intakes of funded Independent Prescribing courses for pharmacists in the South West. Please contact the universities direct for more information on applying.

University	Course start date	Application Deadline	Link
University of Bath	Oct 2023 - Remote delivery.	Mon 21st Aug 2023.	Course link
	Oct 2023 - Hybrid delivery.	Mon 21st Aug 2023.	
	Mar 2024 - Remote delivery.	Mon 8th Jan 2024.	
	Mar 2024 - Hybrid delivery	Mon 8th Jan 2024.	
University of the West of England, Bristol	Sep 2023 - Remote delivery.	Cohort full.	Course link
	Jan 2024 - Remote delivery.	14th Dec 2023 / 5th Jan 2024	
University of Plymouth	Sep 2023 - Hybrid delivery.	Cohort full.	Course link
	Mar 2024 - Hybrid delivery.	23 rd Feb 2024.	

[Further information about pharmacist independent prescribing, including other course providers and eligibility for course funding can be found at the NHSE Pharmacy Independent Prescribing website.](#)

Opportunities to participate in cross-sector training of pharmacy technicians and trainee pharmacists

If you are interested in being an employer or partner in training opportunities for Pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians (PTPTs) or Trainee pharmacists please email anne.somersetlpc@gmail.com as soon as possible.



We are also looking for increased numbers and frequency of placements for MPharm pharmacy students. Whilst on placement they will be carrying out Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). These are defined as ‘units of clearly defined professional activity which a learner is entrusted to complete in practice with the appropriate amount of supervision once adequate competencies are demonstrated.’

[NHSE & PhSC proposed list of Entrustable Professional Activities \(EPAs\) for MPharm students.](#)

CPPE online workshops to December 2023 – book now!



CPPE online workshops to December 2023 are now available for booking. Online workshop topics include: Atrial fibrillation, Diabetes, Hypertension, COPD, Familial hypercholesterolaemia, Deprescribing, NHS CPCS, Medicines reconciliation, Frailty, Falls prevention, The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and covert administration of medicines and Medicines optimisation in care homes.

[See CPPE flyer for further details, dates and booking links.](#)

[Browse all CPPE workshops here.](#)

Diversity Trust learning event 13 Sep 2023 - hold the date

An online session will be held by the Diversity Trust on Wed 13th Sep 2023 from 2:30-5:00pm.



The purpose of this event is to:

- Focus on experiences of accessing sexual health services as trans and non-binary people
- Shed light on barriers to access
- Provide a space where practitioners can ‘ask anything’ and receive direct answers from people of lived experience.

Registration details will be sent out in the next newsletter, but for now please hold the date if you, or any of your team, would like to attend.

Community Pharmacy Somerset

Email: somersetlpc@gmail.com

Please get in touch via the contact details above if you want to subscribe or unsubscribe from this mailing list.

CEO: Michael Lennox. Tel: 07798 861866. Email: michael.somersetlpc@gmail.com

Engagement Officer: Yvonne Lamb. Tel: 07932 952497. Email: yvonne.somersetlpc@gmail.com

