

# Community Pharmacy Somerset Bulletin

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Welcome to the latest Community Pharmacy Somerset bulletin; championing pharmacy and supporting your teams. This 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.

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## Reporting out of stocks and pricing issues

[Report a pricing issue](#)

[Shortage reporting form](#)

Community Pharmacy Somerset is frequently contacted regarding stock shortages and pricing issues with generics versus branded products and work tirelessly reporting stock and pricing issues to Community Pharmacy England (CPE) on your behalf. We understand the frustration and the financial stress that 'out of stocks' have on your business and particularly ordering branded products to dispense versus written prescriptions.

A reminder that it is everyone's responsibility to report pricing issues and stock shortages.

For latest information about Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) and DHSC Medicine Supply Notifications see the [NHS South West Community Pharmacy Bulletin 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.](#)

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## Exchange Supplies – your new needle exchange supplier

**EXCHANGE  
SUPPLIES**

[Find out how to order your needle exchange packs](#)

From Monday 14th November 2022 your equipment supplier will be Exchange Supplies. Find out how to order your needle exchange packs ahead of time.

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## Reminder: SCRa portal being replaced by National Care Records Service (NCRS) from 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023

A reminder that the application portal for the Summary Care Record application (SCRa) will be replaced by a new system known as the National Care Records Service (NCRS) from September 2023. Until 29th September 2023, both the SCRa portal and the NCRS portal will be accessible, but pharmacy professionals are encouraged to start using the NCRS portal immediately and provide feedback through a [short survey](#) to help embed the new system.



[Find out more about accessing the NCRS portal at the CPE website](#)

[See article in NHS South West Community Pharmacy Bulletin 31st August 2023](#)

[Find out more about accessing the NHS Digital website](#)

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## NHS Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2023–24

This year's PQS launched on 1st Jun 2023 and consists of one gateway criterion (NMS) and three domains with annual funding of £45 million to support national health priorities.

Please see the article in the [NHS South West Community Pharmacy Bulletin 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023](#) for further information about:

- The PQS Aspiration Payment Window
- Pharmacy Quality Scheme – TARGET Treating Your Infection leaflets report and data collection tool
- PQS 2023–24 important dates

We encourage pharmacy contractors to review the guidance document to support understanding of the requirements for this year's PQS.

[Full guidance for the PQS 2023/24](#)

[PQS 2023-24 important dates](#)

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## Get ready for Stoptober 2023

Stoptober returns in October with a new national campaign designed to encourage and support smokers to quit for good.



While smoking rates have declined in recent years, over 5 million people in England still smoke and it remains the single biggest cause of preventable illness and death.

Since its inception in 2012, Stoptober has successfully helped 2.5 million smokers to make a quit attempt and has become a well-recognised annual event in the public health calendar.

The theme for this year's campaign is 'When you stop smoking, good things start to happen'; reminding smokers of the many benefits of quitting and providing useful tips to help them on their quitting journey.

Stoptober will launch around 20 September (exact date tbc) to give smokers time to prepare for their quit attempt from 1 October.

In addition to new Stoptober resources, there are a range of free stop smoking marketing resources available on the [Campaign resource centre](#) along with stop smoking content (including a substantial section of vaping content) available on the [Better Health website](#) which you can signpost to.

[Stoptober  
campaign  
resource centre](#)

Thank you for your support in making this year's campaign a success.

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## Diversity Trust learning event 13 Sep 2023 – book now

A reminder that 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.

[Book your place here.](#)

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## Consultation on use of PGDs by Pharmacy Technicians

The Department of Health and Social Care has opened a consultation on the proposal for the use of patient group directions (PGDs) by pharmacy technicians. This consultation, run jointly with the Department of Health Northern Ireland, is seeking views on enabling pharmacy technicians to supply and administer medicines under PGDs and runs until 11.59pm on 29th September 2023.

[Take part in the consultation](#)

[Register for an NHSE webinar on the consultation. Thu 7th Sep 7-8pm](#)

[Share your feedback on the consultation with APTUK](#)



Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK)

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## CPPE news

### CPPE Community pharmacy technician: advancing your role programme

This programme aims to develop the knowledge, clinical skills and behaviours of pharmacy technicians working in community pharmacy to increase patient access to clinical services, by widening the skill mix in community pharmacy teams. Please promote this programme to your pharmacy technicians.

[Further information and how to apply.](#)



### CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician programme

NHS England has funded CPPE to offer the Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT) programme to pharmacy technicians working in England, from any sector, who provide NHS services. A total of 60 funded places are available from 1 August 2023. NHS England funding will end when all 60 places have been allocated or by the end of March 2024. Up to 20 funded places will be available per month, and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please spread the word so contractors can take advantage of this funding and this opportunity to upskill your pharmacy support team.

[Further information and how to apply.](#)

## CPPE Fundamentals of cardiovascular therapeutics e-course

The aim of this e-course is to develop pharmacy professionals' knowledge and skills in cardiovascular therapeutics. The course will enable learners to provide a person-centred approach to support the healthcare of people living with or at higher risk of cardiovascular disease. It is designed for pharmacy professionals working in all areas of practice.

The course is comprised of seven units including blood pressure, atrial fibrillation, cholesterol, angina and heart failure. The learning includes videos, activities, case studies and scenarios to support pharmacy professionals to apply their learning to everyday practice.

[Further information and joining link.](#)

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## Foundation Pharmacist Training Year Assessment strategy and e-Portfolio webinars

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and NHS England (NHSE) have provided recordings of the Foundation Pharmacist Training Year Assessment strategy and e-Portfolio webinars.

[Access the recordings here \(open to non-RPS members\).](#)



ROYAL  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
SOCIETY

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## NHS England Newly qualified pharmacist pathway 2023/2024

The Newly Qualified Pharmacist pathway aims to link the initial education and training reforms to a continuum of development into post-registration. If you employ newly qualified pharmacists, then please support their enrolment on the pathway.

There are four core elements of the pathway:

- E-Portfolio:
- Curriculum:
- Learning resources:
- Access to supervision

Further information about eligibility, timelines, funding and enrolment can be found on the [Newly Qualified Pharmacist pathway webpage](#) and in the [Briefing for employers and key stakeholders](#).



## New educational supervisor training offer for community pharmacy professionals

NHS England is offering 1000 fully funded module places to support educational supervisor training for community pharmacists and pharmacy technician. There are 500 places for Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPP) and 500 places for other educational supervisors, including Designated Supervisors (DSs).

The training will be delivered by ProPharmace from September 2023.

[Find out more and register here.](#)



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## Community pharmacy representative on foundation trainee pharmacist programme board

NHS England Workforce, Training & Education South West Pharmacy team are looking for one community pharmacy representative to join their Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme Board.

If you are interested in joining the Programme Board then please email [louise.bowen6@nhs.net](mailto:louise.bowen6@nhs.net) by Friday 22nd September.



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## 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.](#)

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## Useful information

For information about:

- [NHS Smart Card Renewal](#)
- [Community Pharmacy Complaints](#)
- [Interpretation and Translation Services](#)

[NHS South West  
Community  
Pharmacy Bulletin  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2023](#)

See the [NHS South West Community Pharmacy Bulletin 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023](#).

**Community Pharmacy Somerset**

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