

# Community Pharmacy Somerset Bulletin

4<sup>th</sup> October 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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## Community Pharmacy Somerset Independent Prescribing Survey [please complete or update]



Whether you are already an independent prescriber (IP), training now, about to 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 there is no need to resubmit unless something has changed since you first filled it in. This will enable us to keep you updated with any developments to facilitate as many community pharmacists to train as IPs, such as the [NHSE Teach and Treat pilot](#) and the [NHSE Community pharmacy independent prescribing pathfinder project](#) within Somerset integrated care system (ICS).

[Complete the  
Community  
Pharmacy  
Somerset IP  
survey here](#)

Please also promote this survey to all pharmacists working in community pharmacy, including locums, relief and part-time team members.

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## Training requirements for pharmacy emergency contraception PGDs

[CPPE  
Declaration of  
Competence for  
Emergency  
contraception](#)

[Somerset  
Levonorgestrel  
and Ulipristal  
PGDs](#)

We are working with the Somerset County Council Public Health team on a plan to replace the Somerset safeguarding and child exploitation online workshop with a video/e-learning to remove the need to attend a session at a fixed date and time. We will let you know when this is available.

**In the meantime important action for pharmacists:** If your review and update of your [Declaration of Competence for Emergency contraception](#) is due (every two years), and you wish to continue to provide the service, please do this now at the CPPE website.

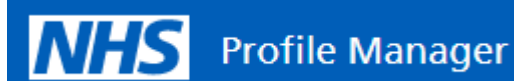
Please check that you have agreed for your data to be shared with PharmOutcomes in [MyCPPE](#). Login, scroll down to PharmOutcomes and ensure the box to allow your data to be shared with PharmOutcomes, is ticked.

Please also read, review and sign the current [Somerset Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal PGDs](#) and retain copies of the signed PGDs in all the pharmacies that you work in.

Any questions please email [anne.somersetipc@gmail.com](mailto:anne.somersetipc@gmail.com)

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## NHS Profile Manager: Add flu vaccination bookings details to your NHS web profile



[Find out  
more](#)

NHS Profile Manager now allows pharmacy owners to update their profiles with appointment booking information for NHS flu vaccinations. Promoting online appointment booking details in this way can help reduce phone queries, with patients able to book online through the pharmacy's NHS website profile from 1st September 2023 to 31st March 2024.

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## Flu vaccination service promotion

[Community  
Pharmacy  
England flu hub](#)

[Maximising uptake of antenatal  
vaccines during the Autumn flu and  
COVID-19 vaccine programmes](#)

Community Pharmacy England has developed a range of new resources to help pharmacy owners effectively promote the Flu Vaccination Service to their patients. These resources include letters, posters, flyers, and social media templates for tweets and tiles.

Access these resources through the Community Pharmacy England flu hub, in the 'Promoting the service to patients' section.

NHSE has distributed a letter 'Maximising uptake of antenatal vaccinations during the autumn flu and COVID-19 vaccine programmes.'

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## Mild illness and school attendance

[Gov.UK Letter  
to school  
leaders on  
mild illness](#)

[NHS is my  
child too ill  
for school?](#)

As children return to the school environment it is not uncommon for them and their households to become unwell. We have been asked by the Somerset Healthcare system to circulate the link to the Gov.UK Letter to school leaders on mild illness and NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' This contains guidelines and recommendations for anybody worried about what illnesses their children may have and if they should attend any education setting.

Please familiarise yourself with these recommendations so you can advise/signpost people to these as part of any of your pharmacy services.

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## Sodium valproate reclassification - full pack dispensing

MHRA toolkit: Risks of valproate medicines in women and girls

**Valproate medicines (Epilim ▼, Depakote ▼): contraindicated in women and girls of childbearing potential unless conditions of Pregnancy Prevention Programme are met**

All licensed medicines containing sodium valproate, valproic acid and semisodium valproate have been reclassified as special containers from 01 October 2023, meaning they are subject to full pack dispensing.

The change means that where the prescription quantity is not available in an original pack size or multiple of pack sizes, the nearest number of full packs will be reimbursed – either rounded up or down, and rounded down when the quantity prescribed is exactly halfway. Contractors do not need to endorse the prescription and they will automatically be paid for the relevant number of complete packs.

The measures have been introduced to help ensure that women and girls prescribed sodium valproate are informed about the risks of taking the medicine during pregnancy, since manufacturers' original packs include specific warnings and pictograms on the labelling. Packs include a patient card, along with the statutory patient information leaflet (PIL), highlighting the risks of taking the medicine while pregnant.

It remains your professional responsibility to ensure that you take other additional actions to avoid valproate use in girls and women of child bearing potential, such as speaking to your patients to ensure they have been informed about the risks and that they have a pregnancy prevention plan in place.

Pharmacists will be able to make an exception based on an individual risk assessment to evaluate the patient's need to be supplied the medicine in different packaging – for example in a monitored dosage system – and providing processes are in place to ensure a PIL and advice is supplied.

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## National Patient Safety Alert medicines licensed for ADHD

National Patient Safety Alert medicines for ADHD



**National  
Patient  
Safety Alert**

An NHSE NPSA has been issued for action by organisations involved in prescribing and dispensing of methylphenidate (Equasym® XL) capsules, methylphenidate (Xaggitin XL®, Concerta XL®, Xenidate XL®) prolonged-release tablets, lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®) capsules, and guanfacine (Intuniv®) prolonged-release tablets.

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## Newly Qualified Pharmacist pathway

[Visit the NHSE  
Newly  
Qualified  
Pharmacist  
web page](#)

This year's Newly Qualified Pharmacist pathway is open to more pharmacists than ever before. It is designed for learners across all sectors of pharmacy, to help them meet their development needs as they enter newly qualified practice. The pathway aims to link the initial education and training reforms to a continuum of post-registration development. It is intended to help pharmacists make the transition to more independent learning and acts as a stepping-stone towards enhanced and advanced practice. The pathway also uses learning outcomes to develop the skills and competence needed to prepare for a prescribing course.



## New interactive and immersive pharmacy careers videos for young people

The NHS England Technology Enhanced Learning team has developed 'Pharmacy: A Day in The Life', an interactive and immersive series of pharmacy VR360 career videos for 14-to-18-year-old learners. These videos offer an inside view of the day-to-day working world of pharmacy teams and showcase different career options and pathways.

[Pharmacy  
careers 360  
videos](#)

Please use these in any work you are involved in promoting pharmacy careers.

## Community Pharmacy Training LIVE NOW

[NHSE  
Community  
Pharmacy  
Training page](#)



Community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are being offered a range of fully-funded, flexible training funded by NHS England to expand your clinical skills and improve patient care.

### Courses currently include:

Training	Target group	Delivered by
<a href="#">Clinical examination skills</a>	Community pharmacists	CliniSkills (see below)
<a href="#">Independent prescribing</a>	Pharmacists	<a href="#">Approved education providers</a>
<a href="#">Preparing to train as an independent prescriber</a>	Pharmacists	CPPE
<a href="#">Community pharmacy technicians: advancing your role</a>	Community pharmacy technicians	CPPE
<a href="#">Education supervisor training</a>	Pharmacists & pharmacy technicians	ProPharmace
<a href="#">CPPE – many topics and formats</a>	Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians & trainee pharmacists	CPPE



## NHS funded clinical skills training for community pharmacists

### Cliniskills modules

Community pharmacists can access a range of NHSE funded, flexible training to expand your clinical skills and improve patient care when delivering pharmacy services such as CPCS as well as preparing to train as an independent prescriber.

There is a Gateway module plus four clinically-focused modules:

- Cardiology (in 5 parts –Atrial Fibrillation, Stroke, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Hypertension and Heart Failure)
- Dermatology (in 2 parts – Skin Presentations and Wound Care)
- ENT
- Paediatrics

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## Useful information

Visit the NHSE South West Community Pharmacy page for information about:

- NHS Smart Card Renewal
- Community Pharmacy Complaints
- Interpretation and Translation Services
- And much more!

NHSE South West  
Community  
Pharmacy Bulletin  
15 Sep 2023

NHSE South West  
Community  
Pharmacy Bulletin  
29 Sep 2023

NHSE South West Community  
Pharmacy Information page

## Contact us

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