

Community Pharmacy Somerset Bulletin

8th November 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.

In this edition:

- [Community Pharmacy Somerset AGM 17th October 2023 – recording for those who were unable to attend](#)
- [Mandatory 2023 Community Pharmacy workforce survey – complete by 17th December 2023](#)
- [Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework \(CPAF\) Survey](#)
- [Community Pharmacy Somerset Independent Prescribing Survey \[please complete or update\]](#)
- [Training for pharmacy emergency contraception PGDs](#)
- [Naloxone quick intervention service – whole pharmacy team to complete updated training](#)
- [Lateral flow device tests supply advanced service](#)
- [Reminding patients about prescription saving schemes](#)
- [Pharmacy blood pressure service check finder tool](#)
- [Isotretinoin \(Roaccutane ▼\): introduction of new safety measures](#)
- [National patient safety alert and guidance on GLP-1 prescribing](#)

- [NHS publishes Pharmacy Workforce Race Equality Standard](#)
- [NHS Somerset Medicines management Newsletter](#)
- [The National Education and Training Survey \(NETS\) – open now!](#)
- [Community Pharmacy Training LIVE NOW](#)
- [Useful information](#)
- [Contact us.](#)

Community Pharmacy Somerset AGM 17th October 2023 – recording for those who were unable to attend



[Access Community Pharmacy Somerset AGM recording here.](#)
Enter passcode: eD@p0kP7

AGM 2023 and The Road Ahead

Many thanks to those who joined us at the LPC at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Contractor Team event on 17th October (evening). It was a great opportunity to share with our pharmacy family the highlights from last year, the current realities we are facing together, and the progress being made for community pharmacy in Somerset along with the works of your LPC. We would ask you to [watch at a "catch-up TV"](#) time of your choosing. The content shared by our Chair, CEO and colleague LPC leaders will give you a strong business and practice sense of what is happening in our system and our way ahead. Please can you also share with any key operatives within your business ie, owners, HQ colleagues etc if you are a multiple. Our thanks in advance.

Recording passcode: eD@p0kP7

Mandatory 2023 Community Pharmacy workforce survey – complete by 17th December 2023



[Find out more about the 2023 Community Pharmacy workforce survey and how to access it](#)

The 2023 Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey (CPWS23) is open until Sunday 17th December 2023. This annual survey has been part of the community pharmacy regulations since 2022, recognising the priority the NHS places on the community pharmacy workforce, and the importance of collecting consistent, accurate data to support effective workforce planning.

It is vital that we build an accurate picture of current workforce reality in our county.

All pharmacy owners are required to complete the survey. The NHS Business Service Authority (NHSBSA) has sent an email to pharmacy owners with a link to the survey. In some cases, head offices will complete the survey for multiple pharmacy groups.

About the CPWS23:

- As per previous surveys, CPWS23 focuses on the number of staff, the number of full-time equivalents (FTE) and any vacancies in each of ten staff categories employed in community pharmacy. The survey also asks about any trainees in the pharmacy.
- Data collection methods and survey format are “familiar and similar” to 2022 – with an online survey and Excel template for Head Office completion.
- The NHSBSA sent an email to pharmacy owners containing a link to the survey on 23rd October 2023.
- An Excel template and crib sheet have been shared with key stakeholders to cascade to their members.
- The survey is conducted by North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of NHS England.
- More information is available in Frequently Asked Questions on the [Health Education England website](#) and on the [Community Pharmacy England website](#).
- The survey data and key findings will be available in 2024 – to contribute to developing information on workforce and build a picture of the community pharmacy workforce.

Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) Survey



[Find out more about the
Community Pharmacy
Assurance Framework \(CPAF\)](#)

The full CPAF survey monitoring pharmacy contractors' compliance in 2022/23 is available until midnight on 3 December 2023. Contractors will be contacted directly by the NHS Business Services Authority if their pharmacy has been selected. Completion is a mandatory requirement

for all selected contractors and the results will form the basis for which pharmacies will be considered for a visit. Users of the [NHSBSA's Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) will be able to complete the survey via their MYS login.

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, please resubmit if anything 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.

You may also consider completing the [CPPE Preparing to train as an independent prescriber programme](#) which aims to build the confidence and competence of pharmacists who are planning to apply and train as independent prescribers.

Training for pharmacy emergency contraception PGDs

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

[Somerset
Levonorgestrel
and Ulipristal
PGDs](#)



Your LPC is working with the Somerset 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.somersetlpc@gmail.com

Naloxone quick intervention service – whole pharmacy team to complete updated training



Supplying naloxone from community pharmacies: Somerset scheme (update, 2023)



Jenny Scott, Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol
& Pharmacist Prescriber, Turning Point Wiltshire (Connect)
Deb Hussey, Safer Lives Lead, Turning Point
Andrew Preston/Louise Evans, Exchange Supplies.
Chloe Drake, Meds Op team, Turning Point.

Thank you again for joining this life saving scheme

which aims to prevent drug related deaths in Somerset. We are very pleased to report that since launch in September **28 kits have been supplied through pharmacies**. This is great but we know more can be supplied.

The Somerset pharmacy quick intervention naloxone supply scheme and training have been updated as part of a wider project to encourage people at risk of witnessing or experiencing an opioid overdose to carry naloxone. The model of supply is based on research funded by Pharmacy Research UK. The updated training should be completed by every member of your community pharmacy team, whether or not they have completed the previous training and is as follows:

- [Watch a recording of the training webinar \(one hour\)](#)
- Access the essential links in red embedded in the [slide presentation](#). NB, you need to watch the video as well as reading the slides and accessing the essential links.
- The links in blue within the presentation are optional if you would like to extend your learning.

Please promote this training to your whole team including relief, part time and locum staff to ensure this important service is made as accessible as possible.

[Community Pharmacy
Somerset Naloxone
training webinar](#)

[Community Pharmacy
Somerset Naloxone training
slides, including links to
essential and optional reading](#)

[Somerset pharmacy
quick intervention
naloxone supply
scheme webpage](#)

Running the service:

If you have not done so already, please remember to do the following:

- Make sure you can access your Exchange Supplies account to order naloxone, any problems contact Louise Evans louise@exchangesupplies.org
- Make sure you have at least one injectable (Prenoxad®) and one nasal naloxone (Nyxoid®) in stock at all times.
- You and your whole team should offer naloxone to all your opioid substitution therapy (methadone or buprenorphine) clients and if you provide needle exchange, offer naloxone to everyone who uses this service.
- Keep offering periodically as you feel appropriate. Please also make supplies if people ask for it.
- Any questions or problems, please do get in touch with deb.hussey@turning-point.co.uk and any training related questions please contact jenny.scott@bristol.ac.uk
- We will let you know how to access carry cases and paper maps of all outlets in Somerset when they are available.

Lateral flow device tests supply advanced service

The lateral flow device (LFD) tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments launched on 6 November 2023. Eligible patients can obtain a free box of five LFD tests from community pharmacy.

[NHS LFD Tests
Supply Service:
Advanced
Service](#)

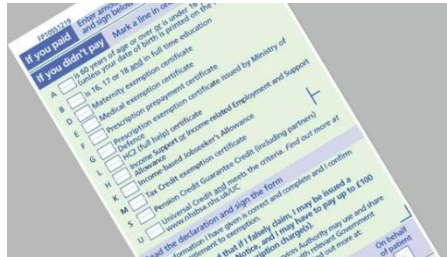
A positive LFD result will be used by the prescriber to inform clinical assessment to determine whether the patient will benefit from COVID-19 treatments. The full list of eligibility criteria can be found in the [NICE recommendations for COVID-19 community treatments.](#)



Further details, including pharmacy registration and the service specification, can be found on the [NHS England website](#) and [NHSE operational note on the lateral flow device test supply service.](#)

Reminding patients about prescription saving schemes

Who can get free
NHS
prescriptions?



Free NHS prescriptions
eligibility checking tool for
patients

NHSBSA
Prescription
Prepayment
Certificates

A new NHS England campaign aims to raise awareness of prescription saving schemes. A Prescription Prepayment Certificate will save people money if they pay for more than three items in three months, or 11 items in 12 months. People on a low income could be entitled to help with costs or free prescriptions through the low-income scheme, depending on their circumstances. Healthcare staff are urged to remind their patients about these schemes – particularly those living with long-term conditions and people living in deprived areas where evidence shows that people receive significantly more prescription items than those living in less deprived areas.

Pharmacy blood pressure service check finder tool

Blood pressure pharmacy
service check finder tool



A new service finder on NHS.uk allows healthcare professionals and patients to search for and find a pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks.

The tool explains who is eligible to go to a pharmacy to get their blood pressure checked and can be searched using a postcode, with the nearest pharmacy listed first.

All pharmacy contractors offering the service should ensure their [pharmacy profile on profile manager](#) is up to date and indicates that they provide the service.

Isotretinoin (Roaccutane ▼): introduction of new safety measures



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

The [MHRA has strengthened the safe use of isotretinoin](#) through the introduction of additional oversight of the initiation of



isotretinoin in patients under 18 years and through improved assessment and monitoring of mental health and sexual function issues. Healthcare professionals are asked to review these new measures and supporting materials and integrate them into their clinical practice when referring patients and when prescribing or dispensing isotretinoin.

National patient safety alert and guidance on GLP-1 prescribing



**National
Patient
Safety Alert**



**Specialist
Pharmacy
Service**

There are ongoing supply issues with GLP-1 receptor agonists used to treat diabetes and for off-label weight loss. A

[National Patient Safety Alert, issued on 18 July](#), outlines actions for prescribers.

Refer to the dedicated [Specialist Pharmacy Service page](#) for further updates around supply.

NHS publishes Pharmacy Workforce Race Equality Standard (PWRES)

NHS England has taken a significant step towards promoting and improving equality, diversity, and inclusion in pharmacy with the recent release of its PWRES report, the first national overview of diverse experiences within pharmacy teams.



**Pharmacy
Workforce Race
Equality Standard
(PWRES) report**

The report, which is also part of the [Inclusive Pharmacy Practice \(IPP\) initiative](#), outlines actionable steps for senior pharmacy leaders and encourages all pharmacy professionals across community pharmacy to help work towards a more inclusive and equitable pharmacy environment.

NHS Somerset Medicines Management Newsletter

**NHS Somerset
Medicines
Management
Newsletter Autumn
2023**

Our NHS Somerset colleagues have created and shared their autumn newsletter. Please read and reflect for the benefit of your patients and your own professional development.





The National Education and Training Survey (NETS) – open now!

**National
Education and
Training
Survey (NETS)**

NETS is the only national survey open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students and trainees undertaking a practice placement or training post in healthcare as part of their education and training programme. The survey gathers opinions from students and trainees about their time working and training in practice placements and training posts, asking them to provide feedback on what worked well and what they think could be improved.



NETS is open to all GP trainee pharmacists, trainee pharmacists, pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians and undergraduate pharmacy learners.

Please signpost all undergraduate and postgraduate students and trainees undertaking a practice placement or training post as part of their education and training programme [to the NETS survey](#).

Community Pharmacy Training LIVE NOW

**NHSE
Community
Pharmacy
Training page**



Community pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and trainee pharmacists 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
Clinical examination skills	Community pharmacists	CliniSkills (see below)
Independent prescribing	Pharmacists	Approved education providers
Preparing to train as an independent prescriber	Pharmacists	CPPE
Community pharmacy technicians: advancing your role	Community pharmacy technicians	CPPE
Education supervisor training	Pharmacists & pharmacy technicians	ProPharmace
CPPE – many topics and formats	Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians & trainee pharmacists	CPPE



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
19 Oct 2023](#)

[NHSE South West
Community
Pharmacy Bulletin
31 Oct 2023](#)

[NHSE South West
Community
Pharmacy
Information page](#)

[Unplanned Closure
Temporary
Suspension of
Services Policy](#)

Contact us

Website: <https://somerset.communitypharmacy.org.uk>

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

