

Community Pharmacy Somerset Bulletin

6th December 2023

Season's Greetings!



Thank you for your dedication and hard work this year!

Dear Somerset Pharmacy Colleagues,

As well as sharing our usual and useful bulletin guidance below, we also wanted to take a moment to share with you our Seasonal Greetings and Thanks.

As Pharmacy folk who have also worked many, many Christmases on the frontline, we as LPC colleagues appreciate that this time of year brings its own pressures at the dispensing bench and in the consultation room. It has of course been another extremely challenging year for pharmacy, for our NHS and indeed the country.

It is fair to say that we are entering 2024 in a make or break mode with the landing of our new contract services as detailed in this bulletin. Your LPC will work ceaselessly for you in our NHS Somerset system to make your personal and business success in these new services as big to achieve and as easy to operate as possible.

On behalf of our team and committee, we hope you do manage to get a decent break over the holiday period and that you come back reinvigorated for the exciting opportunities and challenges ahead.

*Michael Lennox
CEO, Community Pharmacy Somerset
On behalf of Officers and Committee colleagues.*

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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Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists (IETP) Reforms and Trainee Pharmacists 2025–26



As part of the reforms to the initial education and training of pharmacists (IETP) most pharmacists joining the GPhC register from summer 2026 will be annotated as independent prescribers (IP) at the point of registration.

The Oriel application process for the 2025–26 foundation training year starts in January 2024. If you would like to find out more, especially if you are planning to employ or provide a placement for a trainee pharmacist in 2025–26, we recommend that you listen to a recording of an [NHSE WT&E SW webinar about the reforms held on 8th November 2023](#).

NHS England WT&E South West will be holding webinars focusing on how to make the Oriel programme descriptions attractive to students on:

- Monday 11th December 7 – 8pm
- Tuesday 12th December 1 – 2pm

[Click here to book a place at one of these webinars as soon as possible.](#)

[Click here for further information about employing a trainee pharmacist or providing a placement in Somerset.](#)

If you are interested in employing a Trainee Pharmacists in 2025–26 or providing a placement, please email: anne.somersetlpc@gmail.com before 22nd December 2023.

Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care: Pharmacy First Service and Expansion of NHS Pharmacy Contraception and Hypertension Case-Finding Services



Community Pharmacy England (CPE) has reached an agreement with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England (NHSE) on the launch of a National Pharmacy First Service as well as other changes to pharmacy funding and services.

Community pharmacies that have not yet opted in or registered to deliver these services, are encouraged to do so from 1st December 2023, by registering via the [‘Manage Your Service’ platform](#).



Community Pharmacy England (CPE) briefing documents and webinars

Community Pharmacy England has published a [Recovery Plan Agreement briefing document](#).

An on-demand recording of the initial Pharmacy First Service and the Recovery Plan agreement webinar is [available here](#).

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) Pharmacy First Service / Contraception and Hypertension Case Finding – Webinar Series

Community Pharmacy England will be hosting a series of webinars to help pharmacy owners and their teams to prepare for the new Pharmacy First Service, and changes to the Contraception and Hypertension Case-Finding Services. The December webinars are already full, recordings will be made available after each event. We advise booking your place at the webinars in January as soon as possible if you wish to attend these.

[Click here to find out more and book your place at the Community Pharmacy England \(CPE\) Pharmacy First / Contraception and Hypertension Case Finding – Webinar Series.](#)

NHS Pharmacy First Service Specification, Clinical Pathways, draft PGDs and Clinical Protocols published



The service specification, clinical pathways, draft Patient Group Directions (PGDs) and protocol for the new Pharmacy First Service (PFS), which is due to commence at the end of January 2024, have been published. In the consultations with a pharmacist, people with symptoms suggestive of seven conditions will be provided with advice and will be supplied, where clinically necessary, with a prescription-only treatment under a Patient Group Direction (PGD).

The seven conditions are: sinusitis, sore throat, acute otitis media, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women. The new Pharmacy First Service will also include current elements of the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service; minor illness consultations and urgent supply of medicines, for people referred to the pharmacy.

[The NHS Pharmacy First Service specification and clinical pathways can be found here.](#)

[Draft clinical protocols and draft Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) are available to help contractors prepare to provide the service - click here.](#)

Find out more at the [Community Pharmacy England Pharmacy First Service webpage.](#)

Training for the Pharmacy First Service – SAVE THE DATE!

CPE and CPPE are providing Pharmacy First – Ear, Nose and Throat clinical assessment skills workshops in Exeter on **Sunday 28th January 2024**. Two identical half day workshops will run from 9:30am–12:45pm or 1:45pm–5:00pm. Booking will open soon – look out for further news. In the meantime, please save the date!

Expansion of NHS Pharmacy Contraception Services



The new service will enable the supply, or repeat supply, of oral contraception for the first time or switch from one type of oral contraception to another.

For further information, including the service specification and patient group directions visit the [NHS England Pharmacy Contraception](#)

[Service webpage.](#)

Training requirements – additional training requirements have now been included to support the initiation of contraception. [Find out more at the CPE Pharmacy Contraception Service webpage.](#)

Community pharmacies will now be able to sign up to deliver the expanded NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service, to include the initiation of oral contraception, from 1st December 2023. Contractors who have registered to deliver the current Tier 1 NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service on or before 30th November 2023, must opt-in to the new extended service via the Manage Your Service (MYS) system, by **29th February 2024**.

Changes to the NHS Community Pharmacy Hypertension case-finding service



The [NHS Community Pharmacy Blood Pressure Check Service](#) which is already being delivered by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, can now be delivered by trained members of the wider pharmacy team, who will work within their scope of practice alongside pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, **from 1st December 2023**.

An updated [Service Specification](#) has been issued for this service. Please ensure that all team members are aware of this. The main points to note are that the service can now be provided by suitable trained and competent pharmacy staff ie, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other non-registered members of the pharmacy team.

Please also note that your pharmacy **MUST** ensure they have both a blood pressure monitor and an ABPM device that meets the requirements stated in the service specification.

NHS Profile Manager Updates for Community Pharmacy services



NHS Profile Manager is the tool that pharmacies use to update their profiles for the NHS website and urgent care services.

The Terms of Service require contractors to update NHS Profile Manager at least once a quarter to ensure the pharmacy's information is kept up to date.

Pharmacy contractors should ensure their service information for services they provide is up to date on their profiles using [NHS Profile Manager](#). Once updated to confirm these services are provided, the pharmacy will be included in search results for the area.

National Patient Safety Alert: Valproate



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is asking healthcare organisations, including community pharmacies, to put a plan in place to implement new regulatory measures for

sodium valproate, valproic acid and valproate semisodium (valproate). This follows a comprehensive review of safety data, advice from the Commission on Human Medicines and an expert group, and liaison with clinicians and organisations.

[See NPSA Patient Safety Alert – Valproate: organisations to prepare for new regulatory measures for oversight of prescribing to new patients and existing female patients.](#)

Further information, regulatory changes and the actions that need to be completed by **31 January 2024** can be found on the [MHRA website.](#)

Final reminder to complete and submit the mandatory Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2023 by 17th December 2023



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

Regulations laid out by the [Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\)](#) in the Terms of Service for pharmacists require all pharmacy contractors to complete the Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey. A final reminder that the survey closes **at 11:59pm on 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.

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. Further information is available at the [Community Pharmacy England website.](#)

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

Somerset Council, Sexual Health training programme



Promotion and improving positive holistic sexual health and wellbeing and reducing health inequities in Somerset. A programme of face-to-face training is available from Somerset Council including:

- The Basics & C-Card training
- Supporting LGBTQ+ Young people

[Click here for further details and booking link.](#)

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 available 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.

CPPE Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician (ACPT) programme



The CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT) programme is open to pharmacy technicians who are registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC),

work in a premises in England and who meet the entry criteria. Due to the high level of interest, interested pharmacy technicians are encouraged to [apply as soon as possible](#).

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	Community pharmacy technicians	CPPE



<u>role</u>		
<u>Education supervisor training</u>	Pharmacists & pharmacy technicians	ProPharmace
<u>CPPE – many topics and formats</u>	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
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[NHSE South West
Community
Pharmacy
Information page](#)

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

Contact us

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Happy New Year!

The next bulletin will be in January 2024!