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Sue, Anna, Kathryn, Tom, David and the LPC Committee would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. Thank you to all of our pharmacy teams for the tremendous amount of work and effort you have put in to the day to day life in Devon pharmacies, and especially during the exceptional year we have just experienced. You should all be very proud of yourselves, as we are proud of you all.

DHSC Flu Vaccination Stock – updated guidance

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has updated its guidance on the use of DHSC procured flu vaccines by pharmacy contractors.

The change to the guidance now allows contractors to use the DHSC procured stock to vaccinate frontline health and social care workers through occupational health schemes **or through private vaccination arrangements**; previously, vaccination of such workers through private vaccination services, where the patient pays for the vaccination*, was not allowed.

Full information on the requirements for accessing the stock is available in the DHSC guidance found [here](#). Contractors who want to access the stock are encouraged to read this guidance carefully.

So how are you doing in Devon? Well, to put it mildly it's outstanding! To date community pharmacies in Devon have delivered just under 60,000 flu vaccinations. Overall, in Devon, general practice and community pharmacy together have achieved higher rates of vaccination (nationally the targets are 75%) in virtually every at-risk group which is fantastic news. Everyone deserves to be applauded given the current pressures in the system. **The LPC would like to pass on its heartfelt thanks everyone for their achievements.**

Flu and the COVID-19 vaccine

Some patients may be asking community pharmacists and their teams about COVID-19 vaccination and whether flu vaccination is still required. The message for patients, including social care workers, is that they still need to get the flu vaccine even if they will be getting the COVID-19 vaccine soon, as the COVID-19 vaccine will not protect them against the flu or stop them spreading the flu virus.

Eligible patients should still get their flu vaccination at the earliest opportunity to protect themselves and those around them. They should not delay getting vaccinated in anticipation of being offered the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ideally there should be a gap of at least seven days between a flu vaccination and either dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination (which is given in two doses, 21 days apart). If patients are called to get a COVID-19 vaccination within seven days of receiving their flu vaccination, in the majority of cases, vaccination with the COVID-19 vaccine will proceed to avoid any further delay in protection. The suggested seven-day gap between the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine is recommended so that if patients experience any side-effects, it will be easier to identify which vaccine caused them.

Further information can be found in [Chapter 14a – The Green Book – C-19 vaccination](#)

Christmas Crackers



Why does your nose get tired in the winter? It runs all day
How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas? They use Santa-tizer



Devon Carers campaign to identify hidden carers

The number of people caring for loved ones in Devon is predicted to have risen to over 130,000 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Only 20,000 of those are accessing the vital support available to them through Devon Carers, to help maintain their own health and wellbeing.

From Monday, 30 November, a four-month campaign has been launched to encourage unpaid carers in Devon to recognise the important role they're playing and register for the free support and advice that is available via [Devon Carers](#) to help them.

Pharmacy teams will come into contact with unpaid carers through the work you do, so your help is vital. Anything you can do will contribute to helping unpaid carers in Devon get the support they deserve.

Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2020/21 – Part 2: PCN Domains 4&5

The LPC would like to extend thanks to all the PCN Community Pharmacy leads in Devon for their work in running their PCN based meetings with their pharmacy networks in order to meet the requirements of the PCN domains; and for those of you who have participated and completed the necessary surveys so that the leads are able to develop their local plans with you all and the PCNs

If you are intending to claim for the PQS PCN domain and a representative from your pharmacy DID NOT attend your recent PCN Contractor meeting, **you must now contact your PCN Lead directly**. On the day of the declaration, non-Pharmacy PCN Lead contractors must provide a declaration that they have engaged with the Pharmacy PCN Lead and agreed to be involved in increasing the uptake of flu vaccinations to patients aged 65 and over, and must have participated in a discussion, organised by the Community Pharmacy PCN lead, regarding business continuity planning.

If you have missed the PCN contractor call or not responded to requests for information please contact your lead as soon as possible, otherwise you will not be able to claim for the PCN domains and will miss out on the funding available.

If you are not sure who your PCN community pharmacy lead is, you can check on the LPC website.

<https://devonlpc.org/primary-care-networks/nhs-devon-primary-care-networks-including-pharmacies-and-pharmacy-leads-updated-1-december-2020-following-realigning-of-pharmacies-v2/>

The Rumble from the Jungle

There now, I've got your attention. If I had started with 'MDS prescription issues' you wouldn't have read this far would you?

It's always a minefield to navigate, but the 'rumble' is feedback from some GP practices that pharmacies are still sometimes asking for seven day prescriptions to cover the costs of preparing MDS trays for patients. We would like to point you in the direction of some resources which are available on the Devon LPC website [here](#). This is existing information, nothing has changed.

The 'jungle' is actually the huge amount of information that exists and finding your way through it all. In summary, the *pharmacy* has the responsibility to provide 'reasonable adjustment' for patients defined as disabled under the Equality Act 2010. Most pharmacy organisations have an assessment process available to help you with requests from patients. It is the *prescriber* who has responsibility for the prescribing interval – if it is felt that 7 days only should be supplied to a particular patient then a seven day prescription should be written. But these two areas are not linked - prescription length and the provision of MDS packaging are separate issues.

The aim of our [MDS briefing](#) (also available via the website link above) is to help you understand what your obligations are, but also what they are not – there are still many patients receiving MDS packs who haven't been assessed or re-assessed, and who don't require MDS. In these ever more difficult times we would encourage you to take a few minutes and see if you can use this information to help you in your pharmacy.

Christmas Cracker



I got a Christmas card full of rice in the post today. I think it was from Uncle Ben
What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Ordering PPE via the PPE Portal

The Government's PPE portal can be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) they need; the supplies will be provided free of charge.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has partnered with eBay, Clipper Logistics and Royal Mail to develop this service.

PPE Portal order uplift for Christmas 2020

DHSC have announced a **25% increase in order limits for PPE** orders over the Christmas period.

The **PPE Portal** will be operational over Christmas however, the delivery partners (Royal Mail and Pallet Carrier) will not be delivering on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Orders made during the Christmas period should still be delivered within 5 days and to make allowance for any potential disruptions or increased need, DHSC have increased order limits by 25% for all providers, as of 8th December 2020, and until at least 4th January 2021.

How can I access the portal?

Community pharmacies should have received an email invitation to register to access the service, which will have been sent to their NHSmail shared mailbox. If you cannot find the email, you can still create an account by visiting the portal and using your NHSmail shared mailbox email address to register.

Even though your NHSmail shared mailbox has recently been updated to have the new **shorter primary email address**, pharmacy data was uploaded to the portal some weeks ago, before this change was made to NHSmail by NHS Digital. Contractors registering for the portal access must therefore **use the longer original shared mailbox email address (in the format nhspharmacy.location.pharmacynameODScode@nhs.net)**. Emails sent to a pharmacy's original longer NHSmail shared mailbox address will still be delivered to the mailbox. **Visit the portal.** **Watch a video on how to use the portal**

What can be ordered? *Pharmacies can order: Type IIR masks; Aprons; Gloves; and Hand sanitise*

Pharmacies can use the portal to meet the extra need for PPE that has arisen as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. You should not use the portal to order PPE for non-COVID-19 requirements; this should be ordered through your normal supply channels.

The current weekly order limits for pharmacies are listed on the **GOV.UK website**; the more staff a pharmacy has, the larger the quantity of PPE that can be ordered each week.

N.B. the GOV.UK website information on order limits refers to 'registered staff'; this is the number of staff providing pharmacy services at the pharmacy, which is recorded on the portal when an account for the pharmacy is initially set up – it is not referring to staff registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council. PPE ordered through the portal is FREE OF CHARGE. **We have 45 pharmacies still not registered. Please register ASAP – PPE is FREE through the portal.**

PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are working together to finalise a mechanism by which pharmacy contractors will be able to claim reimbursement for their expenditure on personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. But contractors should be aware that any PPE purchased directly by them from 1st January 2020 will **not be reimbursable** via the mechanism under discussion. Contractors can continue to order free of charge PPE for use in their pharmacy via the DHSC's PPE portal, for which they should ensure they have registered.

Questions or queries?

Call the customer service team on **0800 876 6802** if you have any questions about using the PPE portal. The team is available from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week, to help resolve your queries.

Methadone collection incident

We have been made aware of an incident that occurred where somebody entered the pharmacy wearing a face covering, gave a methadone pick up users name and was able to obtain their methadone fraudulently. Please be vigilant when handing out medications, especially controlled drugs, and ensure you are satisfied that the person collecting is who they say they are.

Christmas Cracker



I bought my son a fridge for Christmas, I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.
What do you get when you mix a Christmas tree with an iPad? A pineapple



Help fight COVID-19 by Signposting Patients to clinical Studies – the PRINCIPLE trial.

Community pharmacists and their teams are being encouraged to support the nation's fight against COVID-19 by signposting patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection to the PRINCIPLE trial. Community pharmacy teams are in a privileged position to have frequent contact with those in our communities and can use this to help raise awareness of the PRINCIPLE trial.

How you can help:

Signpost eligible patients to the trial website <https://www.principletrial.org> or calling 0800 138 0800. NB: This can include pharmacy staff and families.

Order and display a poster to highlight the potential for people to participate, or download from the [LPC Website \(https://psnc.org.uk/devon-lpc/wp-admin/post.php?post=9174&action=edit\)](https://psnc.org.uk/devon-lpc/wp-admin/post.php?post=9174&action=edit)

If you are willing to support the trial in this way, PRINCIPLE would be happy to recognise your pharmacy as a "PRINCIPLE Trial Supporting Pharmacy" on their website. You will also receive a certificate from the trial team acknowledging your support. The PRINCIPLE trial platform is a UK-wide priority trial to find treatments for COVID-19 and the only one based in primary care. It is designed to test a range of treatments in the community. Currently it is evaluating usual care along versus usual care plus azithromycin or usual care plus doxycycline.

The trial is being run by the University of Oxford and is funded by UK Research and Innovation and the Department for Health and Social Care through the National Institute for Health Research.

Reminder - GP referrals to CPCS from 1st November 2020 – the CPCS service specification has now been updated to include minor illness referrals from GPs as well as referrals from the NHS 111 service.

At present, preparations to support rollout of the GP referral pathway locally are being undertaken by the NHSE&I regional team, and we will be providing further information on how contractors can get involved in due course. Pharmacies which are already registered to provide CPCS do not need to re-register to receive referrals from GPs as this is an extension to the existing advanced service.

Before GPs can make referrals there must be local discussions to agree how this will work. The discussions will involve all key stakeholders including the LPC. We are expecting in Devon to start these discussions after the New Year, as all attention is focusing on the COVID-19 vaccination programme currently.

Important Note: From 1 November 2020, if you complete the engagement activity as listed in Annex F of the NHS CPCS service specification, contractors will receive a £300 activity payment. Claims can be made from 1 November 2020 until 31 March 2021 through the MYS portal. Please look out in the new year for further information about local plans.

Update Training for Supervised Consumption and Needle & Syringe Provision – Devon County Council

There is a virtual update training event for the community pharmacy providers of supervised consumption and needle and syringe provision which will be run by Together Drug and Alcohol Service. The date is Tuesday 12th January at 1900. Register here

Supervised Consumption & NSP Update Training

The agenda is to be confirmed but is likely to include Service Redesign and how it is working in practice; Learning from incidents and Covid-19; General discussion on how we improve communication

Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme

The Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP) has been established to support provisionally registered pharmacists (PRPs) during their first year of practice. The IFPP will support PRPs to continue to develop their knowledge and skills to support them to achieve high quality outcomes for patients and improve patient safety. It will also provide them with opportunities and support to develop their proficiency as a pharmacist, setting them on the pathway to expertise as a practitioner.

Currently there are around 65% of PRPs enrolled onto the IFPP. If you have PRPs working in your community pharmacy who may not be aware of the programme and are therefore missing out on the support available to them please let them know of the opportunity.

Please Encourage PRPs to:

- Register with IFPP. Registering with the IFPP unlocks access to the RPS E portfolio, NHS OpenAthens, SCRIPT, and the NHS Learning Hub. Closing date **10th January 2021**
- Apply to the CPPE foundation pharmacist training programme where no formal foundation training is in place
- Register for regular updates from the programme team, by emailing fpp@hee.nhs.uk stating 'IFPP updates' in the subject line

If you have any further questions about anything the IFP, please contact one of the HEE IFPP team at fpp@hee.nhs.uk

Deadline Tracker – December 2020

Please see our December 2020 Deadline Tracker enclosed. We would welcome feedback so we can make improvements in future editions. Please sent any comments or suggestions to admin@devonlpc.org

Aspiring Pharmacy Leaders

The Aspiring Pharmacy Leaders programme has launched for the first time.

The Aspiring Pharmacy Leaders Programme is a unique UK wide grass-roots project, supported by the NHS Leadership Academy. The aim is to bring tangible leadership skills and journeys of cross-sector pharmacy leaders closer to pharmacists earlier on in their careers. The first Spring 2021 programme is **now open for applications** from early career pharmacists working in any sector who have completed the pre-registration exam within the last 5 years (please see full applicant criteria [here](#)). The programme will be delivered virtually over three evening monthly sessions between March 2021 and May 2021, focusing on understanding leadership styles, the power of networks, organisational culture and change management. Due to limited spaces the programme will operate on an eligibility and first-come-first-serve basis.

Please see the website www.pharmacyleaders.org or follow-on Twitter [@LeadersAspiring](https://twitter.com/LeadersAspiring) to keep up to date with programme developments.

If you need to contact us urgently, email: admin@devonlpc.org, which is monitored by staff

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