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Welcome to the February edition of the Devon LPC Newsletter.

I would like to thank you all so much for the hard work you are doing to ensure that your patients and your local communities receive the best care possible.

There are some changes that have taken place in the LPC Secretariat since Christmas. Sadly Anna White has decided to move on to pastures new and left in the middle of January; and Tom Kallis has also left as he pursues a change in focus in his career. We wish them all the best for the future. We are in the middle of recruiting replacements for both Anna and Tom and hopefully we will have good news soon!

Thankfully Tom has agreed to continue providing the excellent opportunities for clinical updates and has devised a LPC training and development programme for the next 12 months. Look out for further details on the LPC website. The first workshop will be on Mental Health in April. All dates of forthcoming events and training can be found here. <https://devonlpc.org/training-events/>

We have had some enquiries about training for the locally commissioned sexual health services; there is a provisional date planned for the 20th April 2023 so again keep any eye out on our website.

Special meeting of Contractors to amend the Devon LPC Constitution and make changes to the LPC

The LPC has reviewed the constitution of the LPC and will be holding a Special Meeting where it is proposing to adopt the new revised constitution.

The meeting will take place on 6th March 2023 starting at 7.30pm using Zoom. To attend you will need to register – see the link on the [agenda](#). Details of all the meeting and papers can be found on the [LPC website](#)

Have your say! The 2023 Pharmacy Pressures Survey

Community pharmacy owners and teams across England are facing unprecedented financial and operational challenges and raising this with the Government and the NHS remains the top priority of LPCs, PSNC and other national pharmacy organisation.

PSNC has recently published the 2023 Pharmacy Pressures Survey which will inform the work of ongoing lobbying with the decision makers. Therefore we are asking everyone who works in or owns a community pharmacy to take part. The survey results will be critical to help us to show the Government and the NHS how difficult things now are for pharmacy teams, and to persuade them to take action.

The Pharmacy Pressures Survey consists of two surveys to provide insight into both financial and operational pressures. The surveys have been made as short as possible and should take around 15 minutes to complete. They will be open for completion until Monday 20th February 2023 so time is of the essence.

The Pharmacy teams survey can be accessed [here](#).

The Pharmacy business owners/head office representatives’ survey can be accessed [here](#).

The more responses that are received, the stronger will be the message with everyone’s voice together so please complete the survey relevant to your role(s). Thank you for taking the time to do this.

The LPC is also working with the local system to raise awareness of the ongoing pressures in the pharmacy network.

National Clinical Audit – Valproate

Pharmacies MUST HAVE STARTED by 18th February

PSNC and NHS England have agreed that the 2022/23 national clinical audit will focus on valproate, with the aim of reducing the potential harm caused by taking valproate during pregnancy.

The audit must be completed by all community pharmacies as this is part of their NHS contractual requirements.

[Read the audit paperwork](#)

Pharmacies must conduct the audit over six consecutive weeks, however, the workload associated with the audit is expected to be manageable for all pharmacies as the number of patients is small.

Pharmacies can choose the six-week period to complete the audit but it must be completed by 31st March 2023.

Printable [Audit Data Collection Sheet](#)

The results must be entered onto your MYS.

You MUST complete the declaration by the 31st March even if you have no patients.

If you have zero patients please tick the 'No eligible patients' box.

Please ensure you have received a confirmation email following submitting the data on MYS. You should retain this as evidence of having submitted the data.

If a confirmation email is not received, but the audit results have been submitted on MYS, check the junk email folder in case the email has been filed there. If the audit results have been submitted and a confirmation email can still not be found, contact nhsbsa.mys@nhs.net for further help



National
Clinical
Audit

Mandatory Public Health Campaign –Weight Management

The 2022/23 mandatory national health campaign -*Weight Management Campaign* finished on the 29th January 2023.

As part of the campaign, contractors were provided with a tally sheet and requested to record the number of people with whom they had conversations and the number of referrals made to Local Authority Weight Management services/NHS Digital Weight Management Programme.

As previously informed, PharmOutcomes will be open from **13 February 2023** to submit your campaign evaluations. To submit your collated records, please click on the link below which will take you to the website to complete your submission. www.pharmoutcomes.org

Please note that contractually you are required as a minimum to report back the number of conversations that you have undertaken on the campaign even if it is a nil response.

If you have any questions about access to PharmOutcomes, please do not hesitate to contact the NHSE Regional Pharmacy team via their generic email england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

Thank you for your ongoing support, your participation is vital in getting important public health messages out to the public.

Out of stock communications

During recent LMC and LPC joint meetings, the issue of out-of-stock notifications was brought up. As out of stocks are becoming more frequent, rather than just sending the patient back to the GP for an alternative, the LPC was asked to update the notification routes and we agreed to work with them on this.

We know that many PCN's use WhatsApp to communicate with each other and if you have a PCN Community Pharmacy lead covering your PCN this is much easier, but the joint communications routes do not exist everywhere.

Whilst appreciating the difficulties faced by community pharmacy teams in the sheer number of shortages, pressures on the system, lack of access to full patient records, we recently produced a form in conjunction with the LMC that could be filled in by the pharmacist and sent to the practice (with the patient or via email).

It has been made clear that this is not prescribing advice but a stock availability notice, with alternatives that are available rather than a 'recommendation'. The aim of this is to help improve communications with the practices to build relationships and trust, and to make it easier for patients to access available suitable medicines in a timely manner. The form has been uploaded onto our [website](https://devonipc.org/pharmacy-resources/resources-g-l/medicines-shortage-guidance/) (<https://devonipc.org/pharmacy-resources/resources-g-l/medicines-shortage-guidance/>) for you to download and use as needed.

Your Health and Wellbeing Hub

Devon Wellbeing Hub is one of 40 NHS mental health and wellbeing hubs that was set up across the country in response to the impact of COVID-19. The Hub is operated by staff from Devon Partnership NHS Trust, who are working on behalf of the Devon Integrated Care System, in collaboration with [Livewell Southwest](#) and [One Devon](#).

It is open to anyone working in healthcare (including community pharmacy), social care or the Police in Devon and Plymouth; no matter what your role.

The Hub is designed to be a single place where someone concerned about their wellbeing can come, unpick their needs and be supported to get to the right services quickly. The service is completely confidential and it can help with a range of issues, whether they're related to the pandemic or not. You can be supported with managing stress and mental wellbeing, financial worries, domestic violence and relationship issues or any other issues you're facing with your wellbeing. You can also access support as a team, the service is not only available for individuals. Have a look at the website, there are lots of resources available.

<https://www.devonwellbeinghub.nhs.uk/>

Torbay Pharmacies Only

Joint statement from Torbay Council, Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and ABL Health Limited

We are writing in regard to the Healthy Lifestyles Service in Torbay. Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust have been commissioned by Torbay Council since 2013 to deliver this Service, however following a procurement exercise the Service will be delivered through our new partner ABL Health from 01 April 2023. ABL Health will continue to deliver:

- a) Web-based behaviour change information and advice
- b) Brief advice on health and wellbeing, holistic assessments, and health coaching
- c) Tier 2 Weight Management Service
- d) Specialist Stop Smoking Service
- e) Making Every Contact Count and Connect 5 Training
- f) Community engagement and social marketing.

Please note that Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust will continue to provide the following Integrated Care Board commissioned services (the referral pathways for these services remain unchanged):

- a) Postural stability, strength, and balance exercise programme
- b) Structured education for people newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes
- c) Specialist (tier 3) weight management services

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and ABL Health are now working together around the transfer of staff, to ensure a smooth transition for all clients and to ensure as little disruption as possible to current pathways and projects.

ABL Health will be taking the opportunity to get in touch with key stakeholders in the coming weeks to establish links, develop positive working relationships and discuss pathways and partnership working.

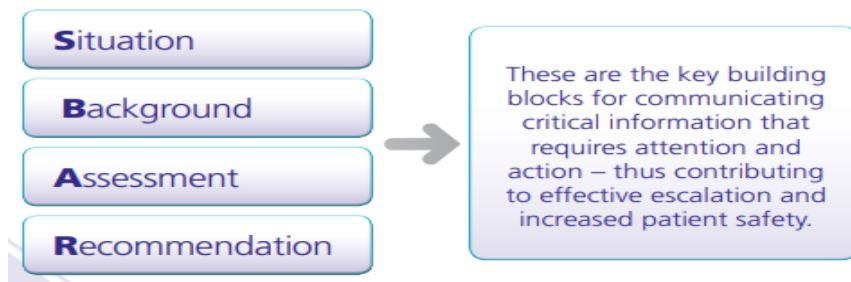
In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact: Claire Tatton, Public Health Practitioner, Torbay Council on ✉ Claire.tatton@torbay.gov.uk

Dexcom One Transmitter to enter March Drug Tariff

Following representations from PSNC and Dexcom International Ltd, the Department of Health of Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that the Dexcom One Transmitter will be added to Part IXA of the March 2023 Drug Tariff.

Previously, patients were advised to obtain the free-of-charge Dexcom One transmitters directly from pharmacies, without a prescription. PSNC told DHSC and Dexcom that these distribution arrangements for transmitters are unacceptable because they result in extra unfunded activity for community pharmacies. Acting upon these concerns, both DHSC and Dexcom agreed to add the Dexcom One transmitter to the Drug Tariff from March. [Learn more](#)

Safer Patient Care with SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) Communication Tool

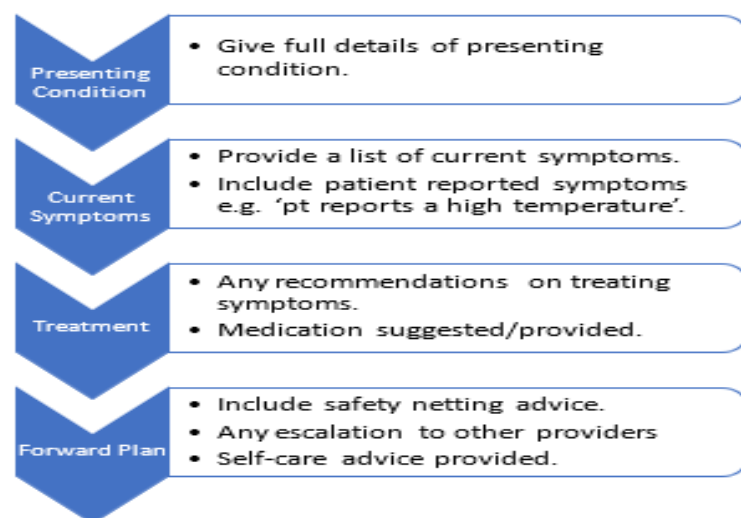


SBAR allows all healthcare professionals to communicate effectively, reducing vagueness and the need for repetition. It consists of four stages that help anticipate the information needed and formulate important communications with the right level of detail. The tool can be

used to support communication at any stage of the patient's journey - for example pharmacist-to-pharmacist in the **NMS** notes and escalation calls to a **GP** or **111** service. Find out more here: [SBAR communication tool \(england.nhs.uk\) Primary-Care-SBAR-Prompt.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care-sbar-prompt.pdf)

Safer Patient Care with GP-CPCS Consultation Framework

Communication is the key to success with the GP-CPCS service. Using feedback and input from pharmacists and other healthcare professionals we are developing a consultation framework to help when completing the **free**



text NOTES section on **PharmOutcomes**. Completion of this section is essential; this is the only information the GP team receives. Ensuring an effective handover improves relationships, builds trust and increases patient safety. See the draft framework below:

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE www.devonlpc.org

Devon LPC Secretariat, Room 16, Partridge House, A38, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7TW

Telephone: 01392 719604 *If you would like us to add or remove your email address from our database, please email admin@devonlpc.org*