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Save Our Pharmacies Campaign:

Created by national pharmacy bodies, to give new focus to calls for fair pharmacy funding in England

The new public petition calls for immediate, fair and sustained funding to safeguard NHS pharmacy services. [Sign the petition HERE](#)

The Save Our Pharmacies campaign focuses on highlighting both the pressures that pharmacies are under and the huge untapped potential of the sector – including to offer a Pharmacy First service – if appropriate resourcing is made available.



Members of the public and pharmacy teams are encouraged to show their support for the campaign on social media, as well as signing the petition and contacting their local MP about fair funding.

A window poster is being printed and will be mailed out to all community pharmacies this week.

The newly launched campaign website contains key messages for public, politicians and stakeholders, and has campaign resources that can be used by pharmacies.

- [#SaveOurPharmacies – We need your help to save pharmacies in England](#)

This campaign is a **joint programme of work** being coordinated by PSNC, CCA, AIM and the NPA.

Get involved!

- Promote the petition within your own networks of friends and family; patients and customers
- Use the hashtag #saveourpharmacies when promoting on your own social media platforms and make use of the materials on [the campaign website](#) to help promote the petition and wider campaign
- Write to your MP!

'If at least two people from each pharmacy across Devon signed the petition that is an additional 448 signatures.

STOP PRESS – Valproate National Clinical Audit and PQS Data

By 31st March 2023, all community pharmacy contractors must have completed the 2022/23 national clinical audit on valproate over a six-week consecutive period and have submitted their data via the Valproate audit 2022/23 tab on MYS. **This is a mandatory contractual requirement.**

If contractors have conducted the audit but did not identify any patients to participate in the audit, they are still required to declare that no patients were identified as being suitable. This should be done by ticking the 'No eligible patients' box within the Valproate Audit 2022/23 tab on MYS and submitting this information by 31st March 2023. This will create a record which will act as evidence that the audit has been completed even though no patient data has been added to MYS. [Read more about the audit and access the paperwork](#)

Now's a good time to make sure you have claimed for all your services!

BETA This is a prototype for a new NHS service

Manage your Service
Pharmacy

Log-in to MYS and select each service in turn and ensure everything has been checked and submitted (this is not automatic). A large discrepancy between GP-CPCS referrals sent and those claimed for has been identified, please check, and claim as soon as possible.

Locally commissioned Pharmacy First Service - PGDs

The Devon service has recently been reviewed and **there are a number of changes effective from the 1st of April 2023.**

The changes to the service are detailed in a communication to pharmacy teams via the PharmOutcomes platform and can be found on the NHS Devon Pharmacy First [webpage](#).

ACTION: Please kindly ensure your pharmacy team including pharmacists and locums are aware of the update and changes.

NHS Devon Integrated Care Board – Appointment of Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead

The NHS Devon Integrated Care Board has recently appointed Jo Watson as the system Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead. Many of you will already know Jo from her work in the Devon CCG but here is a bit more about her and the role.

Dear Colleagues

My name is Jo Watson and I am the Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead for the Devon Integrated Care System. The role has been introduced nationally to support implementation of community pharmacy clinical services with a focus of supporting better integration of these services within the NHS and pathways of care.

I started my career in community pharmacy more than 30 years ago and have worked in both independents and multiples.

Whilst working in community pharmacy I started to provide advice and support to GP practices before becoming a prescribing adviser for a group of practices in Plymouth. I went on to provide a leadership role in medicines optimisation within PCTs, then CCGs in Devon which gave me the opportunity to continue to be involved in community pharmacy as part of cross organisational, system working in Pharmacy.

I feel privileged that this role has given me the opportunity to return to my roots as an advocate for community pharmacy and with your input, raise awareness of the breadth and depth of health and care services that community pharmacies provide to the people of Devon.

The pressure on all health and care services continues to be immensely challenging. Given my limited recent frontline experience in Community Pharmacy I thought it important to visit pharmacies across Devon to see how this is impacting on you. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to meet with such hugely dedicated colleagues who are passionate about going that extra mile every day to support their communities. It really is important, and I would encourage you all to find a moment to take a step back and reflect on what you have achieved - the difference you have made and continue to make for the people of Devon.

I am working closely with colleagues from the LPC and some of our initial priorities include:

- Working closely with hospital, mental health, and community services pharmacy teams to increase referrals to the Discharge Medicines Service
- Working with GP practices and PCNs to increase uptake of GPCPCS
- Developing pathways for the Hypertension Case Finding Service
- Supporting implementation of a pilot for NMS depression in 3 PCN areas
- Submitting and expression of interest to be a Pathfinder site for the commissioning of community pharmacy services involving pharmacist independent prescribers.
- Increasing capacity of Designated Prescribing Practitioners to supervise community pharmacists training to become independent prescribers.

Thank you to those who have welcomed me into their pharmacies over the past few months – I hope and look forward to a bright future in community pharmacy.

Devon LPC Membership from 1st July 2023

Following the acceptance of the new Model Constitution at the SGM held recently we have now started the election process for the new LPC Committee. The membership will remain at 11 and split as follows; CCA - 7; AIMp - 1; Independents = 3. The makeup of the new Committee is made up using the Contractor contracts as at

31st January 2023, as directed by PSNC. The CCA have been contacted and confirmed they will be filling the places available to them as have AIMp.

Last week we started the election process for the Independent places, all independent contractors were mailed a [letter](#) and [nomination form](#), (as supplied by PSNC) and we are now waiting to receive them back ready for either an election to take place or straight filling of the three vacancies

Once all the names have been received from the CCA and AIMp and the Independent places filled, the new Committee will start from 1st July 2023, when we will be known as Community Pharmacy Devon.

New clinical skills training offer for community pharmacists launched

Health Education England are making available 10,000 module places which will be delivered by CliniSkills (<https://www.cliniskills.com/>) until March 2024.

This exciting fully funded new training offer will give community pharmacists the opportunity to build on their existing clinical examination and consultation skills - to assess, treat and manage common health problems.

Following completion of a pre-required, online gateway module on history taking and identification of serious conditions, you can choose your preferred journey through four optional modules, based on professional interests. These modules cover four key themes: dermatology, cardiology, pediatrics, and ear, nose and throat.

The module content will be delivered online using a flexible and responsive eLearning system, with optional face-to-face attendance for pharmacists who would find this beneficial. Pharmacists can complete the training at a pace and time of their choice. Face-to-face workshops will be scheduled to accommodate pharmacist working patterns.

The training is designed to be complementary to independent prescribing training and can be completed prior to or after independent prescribing training courses. This offer is available to community pharmacists, including part time staff and locums working in community pharmacy. To register and find out more about the training visit the CliniSkills website. (<https://www.cliniskills.com/>)

Claiming seasonal influenza vaccination service fees

This is a reminder that, as of 1 September 2022, claims for administering the seasonal flu vaccine to an eligible patient under the seasonal influenza vaccination advanced service must be made within three months of the administration of the vaccine, as per the [Community Pharmacy Advanced Service Specification](#) (see page 2 and section 7.1).

This means that, any claims administered in December 2022 must be submitted by the end of March 2023. Claims will be accepted by the NHSBSA within three months of administration of the vaccination or by 30 June 2023, whichever date is earlier.

Helping patients get Hayfever ready

A number of practices across Devon are helping their patients get prepared for the Hay fever season by referring their patients via GP-CPCS for a consultation with the Pharmacist.

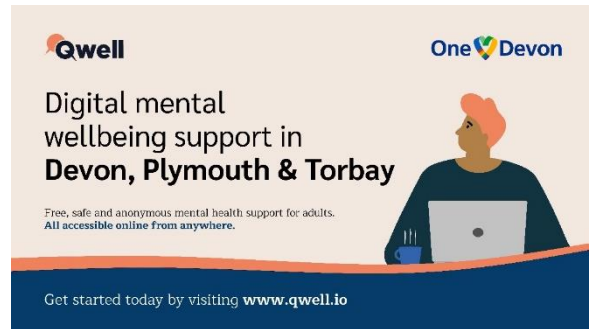
Now's a great time to refresh your clinical knowledge and self-care advice on this condition, the clinical knowledge summary is a good place to start: [Allergic rhinitis | Health topics A to Z | CKS | NICE](#). Most patients will be asymptomatic at this point, so the consultation will focus on prevention and being ready more than responding to current symptoms, but those patients choosing to use steroid nasal sprays will need to start two weeks before the season begins.

Mild to moderate Hayfever / seasonal rhinitis was identified as a condition for which items should not be routinely prescribed but managed with OTC self-care. There is an NHS England patient information leaflet explaining this: [1a-over-the-counter-leaflet-v1.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#) and good resources for help with self-care can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/allergic-rhinitis/> and [Hay Fever | Allergy UK | National Charity](#).

If advising fexofenadine for self-care just a reminder to advise patients to avoid apple and orange juice. Apple juice and orange juice decrease the exposure to **fexofenadine**. This interaction is probably less well known than the many grapefruit juice interactions; <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/interactions/grapefruit/>

Mental Health Signposting Resources – Qwell

www.qwell.io is a free, anonymous and safe online mental health platform for adults aged 18+ which has been commissioned in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay by One Devon. It gives local people access to professional support in the form of text-based chat with qualified practitioners, self-directed support in the form of articles, personal stories, activities, and goal setting tools, and community support in the form of discussion threads.



There is no need for a formal referral to Qwell, and no maximum or minimum criteria to fulfil in order to access Qwell. Qwell can support a broad spectrum of mental health and wellbeing topics of concern, and service users have full control over the pathways of support they choose.

There is also a package of different digital assets available; including leaflets, videos, and social media graphics that can be shared in emails, social media and on websites [here](#). If you would like printed assets like posters that can be displayed in pharmacies, where the QR code for the website can easily be scanned by a mobile phone these can be provided as well as a number of A5 flyers and wallet sized cards. Interested parties can email the Service Engagement Lead for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay on jpitts@kooth.com to request printed resources free of charge.

Torbay Healthy Lifestyles Service

Torbay Council has commissioned a new health behaviours service, ABL Limited, who are taking over the service from the current Torbay Healthy Lifestyles Service.

As part of their mobilisation, they will be training / inducting all the relevant staff on Stop Smoking and are happy to widen this offer to any pharmacy staff who need to be trained as Level two advisers. The training is of course free of charge.

There is a two-day event on 19th and 20th of April 2023. For booking, further information or advice, please contact Liz Woodworth at ABL via this email: EWoodworth@ablhealth.co.uk. There will be future training dates available in the future.

Once we have further details of the service contact details and online presence we will ensure this is sent out to Torbay contractors so that you can signpost your patients appropriately.



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*

Devon LPC Training Events

Mental Health Community Pharmacy Update

A range of mental health conditions often present to community pharmacy to receive treatment, advice or help in crisis situations. This has been recognised by the national NMS mental health medicines pilot, with some Devon pharmacies participating in this important scheme to further extend the service. Our mental health update for community pharmacies will cover drug therapy, holistic treatment and clinical presentations for common mental health conditions in the community pharmacy. Over the course of the evening, we will cover:

- Pharmacological and holistic management of unipolar depression and anxiety in primary care
- Management of acute insomnia and problematic z-drug use
- Chronic pain and opioid use

Book now to avoid disappointment, open to all members of the pharmacy team with an interest in mental health.

18 April 2023 – The Copthorne Hotel Plymouth PL1 1AR

To book your place use the following link; <https://tinyurl.com/4s5cfmwe>

24 April 2023 – The Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UX

To book your place use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/mpt4b2tb>

Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), Chlamydia Screening, C-card & Talking With Young People Training Session for pharmacists 20 April 2023 7pm – 10pm Virtually

This session is part of the training requirement for pharmacists wishing to deliver the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) under the new Patient Group Direction (PGD's) for 2021. This session will also cover 'Chlamydia Screening', 'C-card Scheme' and 'Talking to Young People'.

The current guidance for completing the training is every 5 years, please contact me if you are unsure of your last training date. Pharmacists are only required to attend this one virtual session for all areas of the county.

To book your place register using this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emergency-hormonal-contraception-ehc-training-session-tickets-547749592777>

Please contact nici.buckley@nhs.net if you need any further information or have any issues booking a place.

Hypertension Event for Plymouth Pharmacies only

Is your ABPM feeling unloved, unsure about the latest Hypertension guidance? Then this is for you! We will have a range of guest speakers and local pharmacists supporting the event.

This will be a great opportunity to update your clinical knowledge, lifestyle intervention advice and get hands on experience with a selection of ABPM's.

Thursday 27th April 2023 – Copthorne Hotel, Armada Way, Plymouth PL1 1AR

To book your places please use the [link here](#) or enter <https://tinyurl.com/nhnwkyva>

Primary Care Networks and Community Pharmacy Clinical Forum

Working together to improve Cardiovascular health and Delivering Integrated Patient Care.

27th April 2023 7pm Food, 7.30pm Start

The Courtyard Hotel at Sandy Park, EX2 7NN

[Details and booking form](#)
