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A Festive Thank you to all of our Devon community pharmacy teams

The members of the Community Pharmacy Devon (previously known as the Devon LPC) and the Secretariat Team would like to take this opportunity to share seasonal greetings with all of our amazing pharmacists and their pharmacy teams working so hard in Devon. We are very appreciative of the hard work and dedication you all show when delivering pharmaceutical services to our local population at such challenging times.

We would like to wish you all the best as we move towards the start of 2024 and the landing of the new Pharmacy First service, Oral contraception and the re-launched hypertension service. Community Pharmacy Devon will work for you in our local NHS System to support the successful implementation of the new services as much as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pharmacy teams for your hard work and achievements during 2023, and hope that you will all be able to take some time out for a well-earned break over the holiday period.

Mandatory Pharmacy Workforce Survey – Deadline 17th December 2023

Pharmacy owners are reminded of the requirement to complete the 2023 workforce survey, which is a **mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners**.

The NHS Business Services Authority sent an email to pharmacy owners containing a link to the survey on 23rd October 2023; the survey can also be accessed via the following link:

Access the 2023 workforce survey. <https://necs.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/nhse-community-pharmacy-workforce-survey-2023>

In some cases, e.g. Company Chemists' Association member companies and other multiple pharmacy groups, head offices will complete the survey centrally. If you are not sure whether the survey will be completed centrally, please ask your head office for guidance.

The survey will close on Sunday 17th December 2023. **[Read more about the survey and how to complete it](https://cpe.org.uk/quality-and-regulations/annual-workforce-survey/)** <https://cpe.org.uk/quality-and-regulations/annual-workforce-survey/>

Pharmacy First Advanced Service – Latest news and updates

Claim window now open for initial £2,000 fixed payment

Pharmacies who intend to provide the Pharmacy First service next year are now able to claim their initial £2,000 fixed payment.

Pharmacies who want to provide the Pharmacy First service (including those already providing the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)) must declare that they agree to the terms and scope of the three elements of the Pharmacy First service (NHS Referrals for Minor Illness, Urgent Medicine Supply and the Clinical Pathway Consultations) on MYS.

The **deadline for making this declaration is 11.59pm on 31st January 2024.**

Pharmacy owners who register by 11.59pm on 31st December 2023 will receive the payment on 1st February 2024. Those who register after this date but before 11.59pm on 31st January 2024, will receive the payment on 1st March 2024 instead. Pharmacy owners who do not register by 11.59pm on 31st January 2024, will of course still be able to sign up for the Pharmacy First service after this date, but will not be entitled to the £2,000 initial fixed payment.

Under Pharmacy First, 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, singles 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, clinical pathways and other associated documents can be found [here](#). Community Pharmacy England has arranged a number of webinars, these are all now fully subscribed but recordings are being made available on their [website](#).

Community Pharmacy Devon, Somerset and Cornwall are planning further local face to face practical ENT training events so please look out for confirmation of dates when available.

Hypertension Case Finding Service Relaunch 1st December 2023

A summary of the key changes: Leah has been through the service specification and has highlighted the key changes below.

The service has two stages – the first is identifying people at risk of hypertension and offering them a blood pressure measurement (a ‘clinic check’).

The second stage, where clinically indicated, is offering ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM). The blood pressure test results will then be shared with the patient’s GP practice to inform a potential diagnosis of hypertension.

The pharmacy owner must ensure that they have BOTH a blood pressure monitor and ABPM device on the premises and to be able to offer this service as a whole entity. This is an important change from the previous specification which stated the pharmacy had to have access to one.

Pharmacy teams opting to provide the service must undertake both stages of it, where clinically required, i.e. it is not possible to just undertake clinic BP readings and not ABPM.

The service should be provided by suitably trained and competent pharmacy staff. The term “pharmacy staff” will be used to denote pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other non-registered members of the pharmacy team.

The Responsible Pharmacist must ensure that delegated tasks are being undertaken safely by competent pharmacy staff. The pharmacy owner must ensure all pharmacy staff providing the service are appropriately trained and that clinical supervision for the service is being provided by the pharmacist. NB: blood pressure readings taken by non-registered staff should for now be recorded under the name and GPhC number of the responsible pharmacist while the NHS BSA and CPE work with system suppliers to amend consultation record templates to allow non-registered staff member details to be recorded in due course.

A weekly email must be sent to the surgeries; the link for this can be found on our [website](#) along with other resources.

ABPM can now be worn by eligible patients for 8 hours/14 readings.

Getting ready to provide the service – Equipment Where ear examinations are performed within the pharmacy, the pharmacist must use an otoscope. Consequently, all pharmacies providing the service must have an otoscope. Guidance on selecting a suitable otoscope can be found in Annex C of the [service specification](#).

NHS Pharmacy Contraception Services – Expansion

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 Community Pharmacy England [website](#).

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 the 29th February 2024.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have issued a Valproate National Patient Safety Alert in advance of new regulatory measure being introduced from January 2024.

The alert calls on Integrated Care Boards (in England) and Health Boards (in Scotland and Wales) to designate a new or existing group to prepare for and co-ordinate the implementation of the new regulatory measures for oversight of prescribing valproate to new patients and existing female patients. [Further information is available on the MHRA website](#).

Changes to the Human Medicines Regulations 2023 also came into effect on the 11th October 2023 which provides new rules requiring pharmacists to **dispense all licensed medicines containing valproate in the manufacturer's original full pack**. Pharmacy teams should remind patients on valproate that they must not stop taking their treatment without advice from their specialist; continue to dispense valproate and be prepared to discuss the current warnings and upcoming measures with their patients.

Further information is available on Community Pharmacy England's website [here](#).

Important Note: Please remember the importance of recording near miss information.

Community Pharmacists in Devon can access PrescQIPP as part of the NHS Devon subscription

Community pharmacy colleagues will be aware of PrescQIPP which provides several learning resources to help improve your knowledge and skills to optimize medication. Access to the PrescQIPP site is available [here](#) and account registration is [here](#). In the 'Organisation' field, please select ICS Devon when registering as this will ensure the correct access is provided.

There is a host of resources on the site including [webinars](#), [bulletins](#) and [webkits](#). Currently there are a limited number of licenses remaining for an [e-learning](#) courses on anticoagulation; this can be accessed free of charge with a code that can be provided by the team via the Meds Op email: D-ICB.medicinesoptimisation@nhs.net; other courses would need to be paid for individually.

The IMPACT bulletin that can be used as a clinical resource for medication reviews is available [here](#).

There is also [PrescQIPP plus](#) which can also be accessed as part of the Devon subscription.

Any technical queries can be sent to help@prescqipp.info

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. Pharmacies providing the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service should update their profile to indicate they are providing the service, ahead of expansion on 1 December.

Profiles should also be updated for COVID-19 lateral flow tests and the NHS Blood Pressure Check Service, where they are provided. Once updated to confirm these services are provided, the pharmacy will be included in search results for the area.

To make updates, [sign into the NHS Profile Manager](#) on a smartphone, tablet or desktop.
 Make sure you check the NHSE South West Community Pharmacy web page
 (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pharm-info/sw-pharm>) for a wealth of information about
 Clinical Waste Service agreements, Interpretation and Translation Services , the NHS South West Community
 Pharmacy Bulletin, Reporting significant incidents; and much more.
 For Smart Card renewal see the following; <https://devon.communitypharmacy.org.uk/pharmacy-resources/document-library-n-z/smartcards/>

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

P H A R M A C I S T N L L
 C O V I D N N R L E K S P
 L P A T I E N T L C P U R
 V R C M C X R B A H T P E
 C E C Q E E L P M N R E V
 C S I R K D R U C I I R E
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BLISTERPACK BLOOD CONICAL COVID CRACKER
 HOLLY MEDICINES PATIENT PHARMACIST PRESSURE
 PREVENTION SUPERHERO SUSPENSION TECHNICIAN
 TRIANGLES VACCINATION



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