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Dear Pharmacy Teams

Welcome to our first edition in 2024 of the Community Pharmacy Devon newsletter. The team here would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you all managed to get a break over the festive period.

We have had an incredible number of pharmacies in Devon sign up for the Pharmacy First service – thank you! There has been a lot of work behind the scenes in Devon as our PCN Community Pharmacy leads are working with the local PCNs, practices and yourselves to help with getting ready for the end of January.

We'd like to highlight that we have, along with Cornwall and Somerset LPCs, commissioned additional training to help boost confidence and practise with the provision of the patient-hands-on experience. More details are further down. Places are going fast for the Plymouth session so please book early and let your locums know as it is open to all pharmacists working in the three counties. Thank you for your ongoing hard work and commitment.

Pharmacy First

We have an exciting offer for pharmacists (including locums and relief pharmacists) working in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset only; to sign up to a [FREE practical training session](#) in one of three locations during the month of February. The training will provide a 1 hour 45-minute face to face practical session, where you will be able to practise and experience ear and throat assessments under the guidance of an experienced trainer. There will be the opportunities to practise using an otoscope and to undertake a throat assessment, identifying red flags in the consultation. Book now and take advantage of this offer to refine your skills in a supportive environment, preparing for the challenges of the new services. There will be four 1.45-hour workshops running on each day, you only need to attend **ONE** of the workshops. If possible, please bring your own otoscope to practise with. Part of the package that is being provided will be an e-learning course to complete prior to the workshop. Check out the link which will take you to all of the dates and workshop times that are available.

Booking link: [CP Devon Pharmacy First Training \(Blended\) – ECG Training](#)

[Use the password below and coupon code to access the booking information.](#)

Password: CPSWPEN **Coupon code:** CPPF23

Contact us for support:

Contact for Somerset – Yvonne Lamb – 07932952497

Contact for Devon – Sue Taylor – 01392719604

Contact for Cornwall – Drew Creek – 07300 864641

Changes to Needle Exchange packs in Torbay from 01 February 2024

Torbay Council is making a change to the current needle exchange packs provided through Orion Medical Supplies. Due to ongoing issues of drug related litter, in particular unused, discarded needle exchange equipment in and around public spaces in Torbay, the commissioner is changing the size and types of packs to be available through the needle and syringe exchange scheme. From the data and images made available to a specific working group looking at this topic, it was concluded that, due to the significant proportion of unused equipment being found, that the current packs sizes are too large for most drug users needs.

Therefore, Torbay Council is moving pharmacies to a 'single use kit' model across Torbay from **01 February 2024** – this means replacing the current 1ml / 2ml barrels, and orange / green / blue needle packs with equivalent type equipment, but the new packs only have the full suite of paraphernalia required for one single injecting episode. Users collect only the number of packs required for their immediate use, thus eliminating the unnecessary wasting of excessive equipment.

There will be an email sent to your pharmacy email address we have on file which has a presentation with more information on the new packs, their contents and the important features for you to note – **please ensure that you have located and read that email**. If you have not received this, please email Ian Tyson ian.tyson@torbay.gov.uk. The presentation is also on the Community Pharmacy Devon website [here](#).

There will also be a change to PharmOutcomes whereby the requirement to complete the number (estimated or actual) of needles returned for disposal will be mandated.

In January you should start to run down your existing equipment stocks so that from 01 February the new single kits are starting to be distributed and the old larger packs are phased out.

Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023-24

Don't forget the declaration window of the 5th February to the 1st March 2024. Contractors must claim payment for the PQS 2023-24 during the declaration period which is between 09:00 on 5th February 2024 and 23:59 on 1st March 2024 via [NHSBSA's MYS application](#).

Demonstrate evidence of meeting criteria – 31st March 2024.

Contractors must have evidence to demonstrate meeting the gateway criteria and the domains that they have claimed for by the end of 31st March 2024.

PQS – free Virtual Outcomes Online Course

Yes, it's back – due to popular demand **FREE** access to Virtual Outcomes training videos for all Devon contractors is now available. The [PQS course](#) will guide you through the three domains and highlight the key requirements that you need to achieve to claim your money.

Clinical Soundbites

The University Hospital Derriford will be switching the brand of enoxaparin used at UHP from Clexane to Inhixa from the 15th January 2024. The only exception to this is maternity inpatients who will remain using Clexane for a short time to use up the stock of Clexane.

The clinical indications and syringes sizes are the same.

Inhixa is in widespread use both nationally and regionally – North Devon and Cornwall hospitals have recently switched; Exeter and Torbay hospitals are currently considering the switch.

The main difference for patient is that the needle guard must be manually activated (Clexane has an automatic needle guard) but this will be communicated clearly by the hospital staff before discharge.

If you would like any posters or templates from the pharmaceutical company, please contact Angela Willcocks (angela.willcocks@techdow.co.uk).

Paxlovid Formulary Guidance

The formulary guidance on COVID-19 treatments and the formulary entries for Paxlovid and molnupiravir have been updated today with advice for community pharmacists on ordering these medicines, the five day treatment window, and under the entries a link to the Community Pharmacy England [website](#) on stocking COVID-19 antivirals.

Formulary guidance ([N&E Devon](#) / [S&W Devon](#)), see the section 'Availability of oral COVID-19 treatments in the community' near the end of the guidance

- Formulary entries ([N&E Devon/S&W Devon](#)), see Paxlovid entry note 6 and molnupiravir entry note 5.
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Pharmacy Teams Health and Wellbeing Support

The GPhC and CPhO have made a [statement](#) on pressures in pharmacy and have thanks pharmacy professionals for providing vital health services at a time when they are working under significant pressure.

The GPhC is also encouraging pharmacy professionals to seek support from their employers if they need it, and for everyone in the sector to visit relevant NHS websites to find out what support is available there, to help them to protect their health and wellbeing. On the Community Pharmacy Devon website, you will find health and wellbeing resources that all members of the community pharmacy teams can access for help and support. <https://devon.communitypharmacy.org.uk/pharmacy-resources/document-library-n-z/wellbeing-of-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-staff/>

Forthcoming events:

Pharmacy Strategy Engagement Event with Community Pharmacy teams

Grab a cuppa and something to eat and join Karen Button, Project Support Lead for the development of the Devon Community Pharmacy Strategy at one of the virtual Community Pharmacy Think Tank sessions. The session will consist of a brief 15-20min presentation covering the national and local context in which Community Pharmacy is operating, some of the challenges faced by this contractor group and the good works that are being delivered within Devon. The presentation will be followed by a rapid walk through of the questions that form an online survey in relation to the role, priorities and future of community pharmacy <https://forms.office.com/e/LHxTp8tXu4>. This survey will be available until 29th February 2024, but you may wish to submit it after the session or as you go along. The session provides an opportunity to discuss some (not all) of the questions in more detail and to gather feedback for the development of a Community Pharmacy Strategy for Devon.

This programme of sessions is for community pharmacy teams; PCN/Practice Based pharmacy teams; Acute Trust pharmacy teams (including Community Services); and members of the NHS Devon medicines optimisation team. There is some pre-reading for the Think Tank if you are interested:

- King's Fund & Nuffield Trust [Vision for Community Pharmacy](#) and [Literature Review](#) (Sept 2023)
- Plus some interesting information recently issued by NHS England [Shared workforce model for pharmacists: optional guidance for employers](#)

Three dates to choose from (23rd January, 24th January OR 29th January) - register for your place and for the log in details via Eventbrite now:

[Pharminnovate: Pioneering Strategies for the Future of Pharmacy in Devon Tickets, Tue 23 Jan 2024 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

[Pharminnovate: Pioneering Strategies for the Future of Pharmacy in Devon Tickets, Wed 24 Jan 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

[Pharminnovate: Pioneering Strategies for the Future of Pharmacy in Devon Tickets, Mon 29 Jan 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Pharmacy First and the year ahead: Share your views!

Community Pharmacy England wants to hear from local pharmacy owners.

Community Pharmacy England wants to hear from local pharmacy owners about your thoughts on preparations for Pharmacy First.

A short survey is now running to gather views on the new Pharmacy First service and how preparations for it are going, as well as the outlook for your businesses as we enter 2024. Given the extreme challenges pharmacies are continuing to face, this is a key moment for you to feed into Community Pharmacy England's important work. The ten-minute survey, open until 11.59pm on Sunday 21st January 2024, can be completed here:

[January 2024 Committee Opinion Poll](#)

Please note:

- This survey link is for independents and non-CCA multiples only (as they are sending the survey directly to CCA multiples' head offices).
- Respondents should have their ODS or POC codes ready and please type these in correctly to help with analysis.

The polling enables pharmacy owners to input directly into the next Community Pharmacy England Committee Meeting taking place later this month. January's meeting agenda includes Pharmacy First implementation, funding, the 2024/25 CPCF, and the future strategy for Community Pharmacy England.

The results of the poll will contribute to the national negotiator's ongoing efforts to push for increased core funding by helping build a better picture of what pharmacy owners are experiencing. This information and outcomes from the committee meeting will be published on the Community Pharmacy England website in due course.

Community Pharmacy Devon hopes that many local pharmacy owners submit their views to feed directly into Community Pharmacy England's work.



National recruitment Scheme open until March 1st 2024

All trainee pharmacists for 2025/26 must be recruited via the National Recruitment Scheme, Oriol. The National Recruitment Scheme opened for employers on Thursday 11th January 2024 and will close on March 1st, 2024. For a summary of what this means read the key information [here](#).

COMMUNITY PHARMACY DEVON COMMITTEE www.devon.communitypharmacy.org.uk

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