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Pharmacy First

We're nearly a month into the new Pharmacy First service and feedback so far has been very positive and encouraging. In the meantime, Community Pharmacy Devon has commissioned ECG to run a further ENT face to face practical session on the 11th March 2024, 7.00 pm to 8.45 pm at the Exeter Court Hotel. Places are very limited so [book now](#) to secure your place. This training is only available to community pharmacists including locums working in Devon.

Pharmacy First: Have you completed your first consultation?

In order to receive £1,000 payment for February please remember to complete **one** of the seven clinical pathway consultations. Please refer to the [CPE website](#) if you require further information;

Pharmacy First Webinar: Streamline Clinical Referrals with PharmOutcomes

Wednesday 28th February | 7 - 8pm

Join the Pinnacle team for their must-see webinar as they explore the NHS Pharmacy First scheme. You will be guided through the entire referral process - from GP surgery to pharmacy - where you'll see firsthand the pivotal role PharmOutcomes plays in streamlining your clinical referrals.

Key takeaways include;

- How the Pharmacy First service works vs CPCS - what's new!
- The GP referral process - how Pinnacle is supporting GP teams to identify patients suitable for pharmacy referral.
- How PharmOutcomes is supporting pharmacies with referral management.
- How to manage urgent medicines supply.
- How to view the patient GP record in PharmOutcomes and an overview of the writeback process into the GP record.

Join Pinnacle on Wednesday 28th February at 7pm, please register your interest using the link below.

Please register your attendance [here](#).

Devon community pharmacy strategy engagement events

NHS Devon is developing a community pharmacy strategy and would value feedback on current services, challenges and opportunities from system partners as part of this.

The following evening session has been set-up: **Monday 26 February, 7-7.45pm** ([Click here to join the meeting](#))
To attend, simply click on the Microsoft Teams meeting link provided above at the relevant time and date.

Each online session will consist of a brief 15-20 minute 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 work that is 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. This survey will be available until 29 February, but you may wish to submit it after the session or as you go along. Please note, you do not have to attend a virtual session to complete the survey. All feedback will be used to directly inform the Devon Community Pharmacy Strategy.

NHS England, in collaboration with RSM, is seeking feedback from pharmacy teams regarding their experience of and requirements for the NHS App.

The survey for pharmacy teams covers various topics, including:

- Which patient apps do you use and for what reasons?
- What challenges do you encounter when using the NHS App?
- How can the NHS App be more beneficial for you?

NHS England and its NHS App team will thoroughly analyse the survey results and use them to shape the development roadmap for the app.

Your views are valuable, even if your pharmacy does not yet promote use of the NHS App. The survey is designed to be quick and simple, requiring approximately 9 minutes of your time. We'd encourage pharmacy team members to complete the survey: [Complete the NHS App pharmacy survey](#)

Independent Pharmacy Contractors – call to join in with a local network

Sian Retallick, CPE SW regional representative for Community Pharmacy England has written the following:

I would like to introduce myself and the resources I have to support you. As your CPE SW regional rep and CPPE SW tutor I am keen to ensure you are represented in the heart of both organisations. I have asked Community Pharmacy Devon to set up a WhatsApp group enabling me to post information, surveys and resources to keep you informed, up to date and engaged. If you would like to be part of this group, please send an email to admin@cpdevon.org.uk stating your name, pharmacy and mobile phone number. None of this information will be used for any other purpose.

Clinical Update

Sodium Valproate – New Regulatory Measures from 31st January 2024

Full pack dispensing reminder

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, valproate-containing medicines must always be dispensed in the manufacturer's original full pack. Pharmacists must either round up or down so that the patient receives their supply in the manufacturer's original full pack and ensure that they receive an amount that is as close as possible to that prescribed. Valproate-containing medicines must not subsequently be re-packaged into plain dispensing packaging.

Exceptional circumstances

The manufacturer's original full pack does not have to be supplied where:

- a risk assessment is in place that refers to the need for the patient to be sold or supplied valproate-containing medicines in different packaging from its manufacturer's original full outer packaging (for example, in a monitored dosage system) and
- assuming that the product is authorised, there are processes in place to make sure that the patient receives the patient information leaflet.

New Regulations for prescribing Valproate (does not affect dispensing process)

- Valproate must not be started in new patients (male or female) younger than 55 years, unless two specialists independently consider and document that there is no other effective or tolerated treatment, or there are compelling reasons that the reproductive risks do not apply.
- At the next annual specialist review, women of childbearing potential and girls should be reviewed using a revised valproate Risk Acknowledgement Form, which will include the need for a second specialist signature if the patient is to continue with valproate and subsequent annual reviews with one specialist unless the patient's situation changes.

Safety and education materials

These [materials are all available on the MHRA website](#) and include:

- Pharmacy poster - Provides important actions for pharmacists dispensing valproate to female patients.
 - Patient card - Provides key information for female patients receiving valproate on contraception and pregnancy prevention.
 - Warning stickers - To be added to packaging of medicine in exceptional circumstances where the original pack cannot be dispensed.
-

Clozapine Training

Devon Partnership Trust have recently purchased an accredited online training programme focused on Clozapine. This valuable resource is now available, free of charge, to any organisations involved in the care of their patients. The three-hour e-learning course offers a comprehensive overview, making it an invaluable tool for those seeking to enhance their understanding of this medicine. The course, titled 'Clozapine – A Concise Clinical Overview', has received certification from the College of Mental Health Pharmacy (CMHP). It is designed to cater to healthcare professionals working in community or acute care, including primary care, residential homes, and hospitals. Anyone wishing to complete this course just needs to complete a brief registration form via the link below:

<https://www.learnitonline.co.uk/devon-membership-registration/>

Devon County Council Locally Commissioned Smoking Cessation Service

All Community Pharmacies should already be aware that the specialist stop smoking cessation service in the Devon County Council area is now provided through Stop4Life. As part of the service, their team also provide training for all in-house Stop Smoking Advisors including providing new CO monitors if required.

If your pharmacy is accredited to provide the locally commissioned (by Devon County Council) Smoking Cessation Service in Devon please see check out the first set of sessions available for Level 2 training, refresher training and MECC. Dates should have been emailed out directly to previously listed advisors, but the information held by Stop4Life is unlikely to be up to date. If you have new members of staff that you would like to have trained as level 2 advisors, please book them into one of the available courses or contact Stop4Life direct.

To contact Stop4Life, please either call their service number or email them using their NHS email. Call: 0800 122 3866 Email: stopforlifedevon@nhs.net [Training Booking Form for Devon](#) [Devon stop for life training](#)

COVID early treatment

The groups of patients who would be eligible for treatment for COVID-19 infections is widening to include more medical conditions and age groups:

- People aged 85 or over.
- End-stage heart failure with a long-term ventricular assistance device.
- People on the organ transplant waiting list.
- People aged over 70 who have a BMI of >35, diabetes or heart failure, patients in care homes).

Colleagues at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation trust have kindly produced a newsletter, with nuggets of information, a helpline number, and a flow chart for the supply process, for use within primary care. The links to both can be found here: [Link 1](#) & [Link 2](#)

The Recognition of Excellence (RoE) Awards are back for their 11th year continuing to champion the work of community pharmacy staff across the UK.

Pharmacy teams are encouraged to nominate themselves or colleagues before the closing date of 4th April 2024. They could be medicines counter assistants, delivery drivers, dispensing assistants, health champions, pharmacy technicians, ACPTs, team leaders, pharmacy managers or hold any other patient-facing role within the community pharmacy support team. For more details about the awards categories check out the [CPD website](#).

Entries and nominations should be submitted by 4 April 2024: <https://www.roeawards.co.uk>

Devon Pharmacists only – If you want to look at gaining your Independent Prescribing qualification Expressions of Interest for Teach and Treat Pilot are now open for 2024-25.

Appropriate access to, and capacity of, supervision to support pharmacists to become independent prescribers is a challenge across the workforce, and particularly within community pharmacy. The aim of the Devon Teach and Treat pilot is to support community pharmacists from across the county to achieve their independent prescribing qualification by providing access to suitable supervisors and clinical environment.

Developing independent prescribing within community pharmacy will give patients an additional point of access to experienced and skilled clinicians who will be able to consult, assess, diagnose and prescribe within a specific remit. In turn, this should assist with some of the workload experienced by general practice and urgent care. The Devon Integrated Care System is supporting a Teach and Treat Pilot. This pilot is led by an experienced non-medical prescriber, using a cross-sector, multi-professional model to identify appropriate supervision and clinical environment for trainee prescribers. The Teach and Treat lead will provide some DPP capacity directly, coordinate supervision for all T&T trainees and provide clinical skills examination sessions to complement the prescribing course.

Expressions of Interest are invited from community pharmacists who wish to undertake their independent prescribing qualification, next year, with the support of the Devon Teach and Treat pilot. You can complete your EOI [here](#).

Closing date: 31st May 2024 17:00. Notification to successful applicants: week beginning 17th June 2024

For further information visit: Improving prescribing supervision access and capacity: Teach and Treat clinics pilot / Health Education England (hee.nhs.uk) or email plh-tr.devonteachandtreat@nhs.net There has recently been an article on this novel approach to providing trainee independent prescriber supervision for community pharmacists in Devon published in the latest edition of the [PM Healthcare Journal Winter Issue 2024](#).

Codeine Linctus

Codeine linctus, an oral solution or syrup licensed to treat dry cough in adults, is to be reclassified to a prescription-only medicine due to the risk of abuse, dependency and overdose, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) announced today (20 February 2024). Codeine linctus is an opioid medicine which has previously been available to buy in pharmacies under the supervision of a pharmacist but will now only be available on prescription following an assessment by a healthcare professional.

Since 2019, there have been increasing reports in the media of codeine linctus being misused as an ingredient in a recreational drink, commonly referred to as 'Purple Drank'. The decision to reclassify the medicine has been made following a consultation with independent experts, healthcare professionals and patients. 992 responses were received. The consultation was launched by the MHRA after Yellow Card reports indicated instances of the medicine being abused, rather than for its intended use as a cough suppressant. Responses to the consultation identified the pressure pharmacists were under to provide the medicine to those suffering from addiction.

[Link to the update](#).

Get ahead for Pharmacy First with NHS funded training

Pharmacy First is here – build your pharmacy future with fully funded, flexible training tailored to your skills, experience and individual learning requirements.

Learn new skills, support peer development and expand your clinical knowledge.

Courses include:

- **Clinical Examination Skills and Independent Prescribing** for Community Pharmacists.
- **Advancing your role** for Community Pharmacy Technicians
- **Educational Supervisor Training for Community Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians**

[Find out more and apply now](#)

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/community-pharmacy-training>

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

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