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Welcome to the June edition of the Community Pharmacy Devon newsletter. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing hard work and effort in delivering services to the population of Devon through these challenging times for community pharmacy.

Thank you too those of you who attended our recent training events in North Devon, Exeter and Plymouth. Over 140 people from pharmacy teams across Devon attended and the feedback from the training was very positive overall, particularly around improving understanding the new national pharmacy services, overcoming some of the barriers and the networking opportunities.

The next training opportunity is on contraception for pharmacists and technicians, delivered by members of Community Pharmacy Devon and the local specialist sexual health teams. More details are further on in the newsletter.

Pharmacy Funding Pressures

The Health and Social Care Select Committee has published the [report](#) of its inquiry into community pharmacy. The Committee noted that community pharmacies are 'creaking under the strain of funding pressures', and MPs warned about the impact on medicine supply issues. The Committee recognised the potential of pharmacies to expand their clinical services offering, doing more to support patients and the wider NHS.

Pharmacy Advice Audit: Please take part

Pharmacy owners and their teams in Devon are reminded that the Pharmacy Advice Audit is now underway, and we need as many of you as possible to take part before 16th June 2024.

Community Pharmacy England's [audit](#) will gather evidence to support the case for increased funding for the sector – and capture healthcare advisory work not being covered by Pharmacy First. By recording information about patients seeking informal advice from your pharmacy over the course of a single day, you can help demonstrate how the sector is supporting communities across the country.

Community Pharmacy Devon supports the audit and would encourage all pharmacy owners to take part who are able to do so. Community Pharmacy England needs data from as many pharmacy teams as possible to build a strong evidence base. This data will be used to build support for community pharmacies via patient groups and health charities, politicians and election candidates, and the national press.

You can learn more about the audit via these new digital explainers:

[Animation: Pharmacy Advice Audit](#)

[Infographic: Help gather critical evidence](#)

Further information is available from cpe.org.uk/adviceaudit

Lateral Flow Device Tests Supply Advanced Service

From 29 May 2024, an NHS service finder: [Find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests](#) via NHS.uk has been launched to enable patients to quickly and easily locate a pharmacy participating in the advanced service to provide free COVID-19 NHS lateral flow device (LFD) tests to eligible patients or their representative.

The Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests service specification has been updated to make the eligibility clearer as set out in NICE guidance and to emphasise that eligible patients do not need to be symptomatic of COVID-19 to obtain a free box of tests. The revised service specification (where changes have been highlighted in yellow) can be found here:

[service-spec-NHS-LFD-tests-supply-service-May-2024.docx\(live.com\)](#).

Site sign-up process launched for the autumn/winter 24/25 COVID-19 vaccination service

All primary care providers who wish to deliver the COVID-19 Vaccination Service from their healthcare premises from 1 September 2024 are invited to sign up by indicating their intention to participate through the [NHSBSA webpage](#). Any provider wishing to participate must read the guidance which outlines the Site Sign-up Process and key deadlines. To support, NHS England has published:

- [COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service specification for general practice and community pharmacy](#)
- [Guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccination Service Site Sign-up Process](#)

The seasonal influenza [letter](#) and service specifications for the 24-25 programme were published in March and are available for [community pharmacy](#), and [general practice](#). More information is available on the Community Pharmacy England website:

[NHSE opens EOI process for future C-19 vacs service campaigns - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](#)

Community pharmacy clinical services evaluation

NHS England has commissioned [RAND Europe](#) to deliver an independent evaluation of clinical services commissioned under the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (2019-24).

During this month (May), RAND is contacting a sample of contractors, pharmacists, their teams and other stakeholders across England to seek participation in interviews, site visits, and support to recruit patients for focus groups.

Your experiences and feedback will inform the evaluation outcomes and help shape NHS England commissioning of community pharmacy clinical services for the future. Please take part in this important evaluation so that a wide range of views and feedback can be captured.

Government confirms plans to make 'hub and spoke' dispensing models more available

The Government has [confirmed plans](#), pending parliamentary approval, to make 'hub and spoke' dispensing models available to all local pharmacies. The change aims to make local pharmacies more efficient and free up time for more complex elements of dispensing and clinical care. The move is part of government's plans to make patient access to medicines and treatment more efficient across the NHS. [Find out more.](#)

Pharmacy First – When can you claim?

When it is appropriate to make a claim for a Pharmacy First consultation and when a clinical record needs to be created?

There are many scenarios within the Pharmacy First service therefore to help pharmacy owners and their teams know when you can make a claim for a payment, Community Pharmacy England have published a resource to assist with this. The resources list the different scenarios, whether you need to make an entry in your Pharmacy First IT system for that scenario and whether you can claim payment. Follow the link for further details:

[Pharmacy First – When can you claim? - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](https://cpe.org.uk)

Contraception Training Workshops

Community Pharmacy Devon will be holding contraception training events on the 3rd July ([Exeter](#)) and 10th July ([Plymouth](#)). Open for pharmacists and technicians. Follow links for booking details.

Training from members of Community Pharmacy Devon and guest speakers from the local sexual health teams will cover all aspects of the national contraception service including the following topics with case studies:

- Emergency contraception
 - Progesterone-only pills
 - Combined oral contraceptive pills
 - Discussion of cases
-

STOP PRESS: Flu Vaccination Training; 23rd June 2024

Limited places still available on the afternoon course arranged by Community Pharmacy Devon and being held at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford. [Link](#) for booking.

Pharmacy Owner Events

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a series of regional roadshow events across the country during the next couple of months. Chief Executive Janet Morrison and her team, as well as committee members, will be visiting every NHS England region to hear directly from pharmacy owners and LPCs. The events will give an opportunity to hear about the work CPE is doing to try to ease the critical pressures being faced onto and to ask questions of Janet and the team. The events will cover topics such as:

- The ongoing critical pressures in community pharmacy
- Work on the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2024/25
- The vision and strategy for the future of the sector
- How community pharmacy fits into the wider political and NHS climate
- How Community Pharmacy England operates; and how
- You can input to and support their work.

Book your place now:- Events are free to attend but you need to register in advance, attendance is for pharmacy owners only.

South West – Thursday 25th July 2024, Exeter

For more information follow the link <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-owner-events-programme/>

General Election Campaigning Begins

The Prime Minister has announced the date for the next UK General Election as 4th July 2024, and CPE is continuing their critical work to build supporters in readiness for the new Parliament. Read more on the CPE website [here](#).

Alongside the national work CPE is doing, we would encourage pharmacies to also get involved in contacting your local election candidates using the latest [CPE briefings](#) for politicians and [guidance](#) for writing to your MP to help.

These documents will be updated imminently to cover contacting Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPC) too.

If any pharmacies are interested in hosting a pharmacy visit, or already have planned on hosting a visit with a local candidate, please let Community Pharmacy Devon know by emailing admin@cpdevon.org.uk so we can help to support this.

ABC Medicines Adherence Frontline Engagement Survey – Primary and Community Care

The NHSE Behavioural Insights Team has asked us to share a national survey which is linked to a project for the NHS CVD Prevention Programme. The aim is to provide insights on what is undertaken around medicines adherence across the medicines pathway for ABC conditions.

There is significant research and acceptance that non-adherence of ABC (Atrial Fibrillation, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol) medicines is an issue that impacts clinical outcomes for long term condition management.

Research shows that a high proportion of patients newly started on an ABC medication become non-adherent in the first 10 weeks from commencing medication. Analysis of adherence conducted across disease states also estimates that between 30% and 50% of prescribed medication is not taken as recommended in years 1,3 or 5 from initiation. This makes adherence work dynamic as patients adherence status may change over time requiring interventions at different stages of chronic condition management. Non-adherence is also an often hidden problem: undisclosed by patients and unrecognised by prescribers.

The survey is broken down into four key sub sections and should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Prescribing and initiation of treatment for ABC conditions
Initiation of new medication for ABC conditions
Monitoring and maintenance of medication for ABC conditions
Improving Medicines Adherence for ABC conditions

Link to the survey for primary care colleagues [here](#)

Discontinuation of Levemir Innolet 100unit/ml solution for injection, Insulatard innolet.

The following needles have also been discontinued: Novotwist 5mm (32G) Novofine 6mm (31G) and 8mm (30G) Novofine autocover needle (30G) and Novofine Remover. Please refer to the Devon formulary for updates.

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