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Welcome to the July edition of the Community Pharmacy Devon Golden Pages highlighting key issues and opportunities. We'd like to thank you for the hard work you and your teams are doing every day to support your patients and local communities, and especially for the response you had to make to the IT outage last week – we know the fallout from that is still ongoing. Please pass on to the members of your pharmacy team and locums.

Pharmacy First

Based on feedback from pharmacists, GPs and primary care networks, here are a few quick reminders! -

Pharmacy First isn't only supplying a medication under a PGD. The minor ailments element of Pharmacy First (formerly CPCS) still exists. Patients can be referred by a GP practice for any of the seven clinical pathways or any of the minor illnesses that would have previously been covered by GP CPCS. Eg. an adult with an earache could be provided with self-care advice, safety-netting or escalation to the GP.

Know your clinical pathways. Remember that you can still claim on some of the pathways if you have worked through the gateway but haven't issued a medication under a PGD. It is particularly worth revisiting the clinical pathways for UTI, acute sinusitis and acute otitis media.

The free text boxes on PharmOutcomes have to be completed. This is important as they contain the key information about your consultation with the patient that the practice need to know. If these free text boxes are not completed, the summaries sent back contain practically no useful information.

Be aware of NHS choices regarding when a patient needs to see a GP and talk to your local practices about the services they offer. For example with the management of warts and verrucae, there is clear guidance on NHS choices on whether to go to the pharmacy for advice/treatment, or when to refer to a GP. The guidance also mentions that a GP may freeze, but less surgeries offer this now and instead send the patient to buy a product from a pharmacy.

Some practices will be ramping up their referrals – if you are unable to support the referral coming into your pharmacy remember that it is your responsibility to refer to another pharmacy.

What is best practice in record keeping?

As the provision of clinical services in community pharmacies continues to grow, pharmacy professionals who want to update their knowledge of best practice in record keeping can access the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education [Documenting in patient clinical records e-learning programme](#).

This learning programme will support pharmacy professionals to:

- Summarise the legal and regulatory requirements for patient clinical records;
 - Describe the information required for clear, concise and appropriate patient clinical records;
 - Recognise the required structure expected when writing in patient clinical records; and
 - Document details of patient consultations and clinical interventions concisely and accurately in patient clinical records.
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VirtualOutcomes – Free pharmacy team training for Devon pharmacies

A new [module designed to bring together learnings from the first five months of the service](#) has been launched. This picks up on quick wins you can implement, and highlights missed opportunities to include patients in the clinic pathways.

A Virtual Outcomes licence has been purchased by Community Pharmacy Devon on behalf of all Devon contractors. This means that **all Devon pharmacies have free access to Virtual Outcomes.**

Access VirtualOutcomes Training in 5 steps:

1. Visit <https://www.virtualoutcomes.co.uk/pharmacy-training/>
2. Enter your pharmacy F Code
3. Click on the training menu for the course you wish to view
4. Click “Start Course”
5. Complete the registration form

Devon Pharmacies only

Stop for Life Devon is the specialist stop smoking service in Devon, who are commissioned to provide support to community advisors, including those located within pharmacies. In response to recent survey feedback, additional training will be provided by the service, including vape specific training. It is hoped this will enable advisors to feel confident to advise on and supply vapes to stop smoking clients.

In the meantime, there is an online smoking cessation refresher training session on Monday 16th September 2024 or Thursday 7th November 2024, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

To access this training and to find out about other specialised smoking cessation training, contact Stop for Life Devon directly at stopforlife.devon@nhs.net or 08001223866.

Humankind (for pharmacies commissioned to provide Supervised Consumption in Devon and Torbay)

Humankind have been in touch with us regarding their new national quarterly pharmacy newsletter aimed to support pharmacy staff understand the issues and what is currently going on in the world of substance use and how it may impact pharmacies. You can read a copy [here](#).

They are also developing a new Humankind prescriptions management policy and have asked us to circulate a short questionnaire with regards to receipt of instalments prescriptions from the substance use service (Together) in your area and communications with the service. The aim is to help them have a better understanding of how everyone can work together to smooth up the prescriptions process for both the service and community pharmacy and local communications especially around receiving batch prescriptions.

If you are happy to take part and answer a few questions please do this via the link [here](#).

Torbay Pharmacies Only

Torbay Recovery Initiatives (TRI) are holding a number of naloxone training sessions in July and August 2024 and they would like to encourage anyone who has contact with people who use substances to attend training on how to use naloxone – please see attached. If you are unable to make the dates listed, please contact TRI via 01803 291129 and they will look to arrange another training date.

Torbay Recovery Initiatives is now part of a wider alliance called Growth In Action. Please follow the link below to view the Growth in Action intro video for anyone that would like to understand more about the new Alliance in Torbay: <https://youtu.be/P-VzYgraLzQ>

Pharmacist Independent Prescribing NHSE funded places University of Bath applications now open

NHS funding for places is assured for courses started between September 2024 – March 2025. The closing date is Monday 16th September, it is likely that places will be filled before the deadline. The application portal is on the University of Bath website and can be accessed via the link [Pharmacist Independent Prescribing \(bath.ac.uk\)](https://www.bath.ac.uk/pharmacist-independent-prescribing).
Deadline for applications: Monday 16 September 5pm

Devon Teach and Treat Pilot

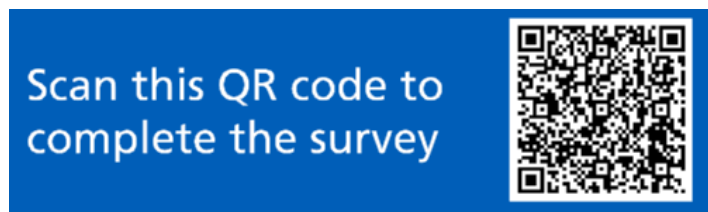
Due to increased demand the Expression of Interest process for Teach and Treat has been re-opened. The [EOI](#) will remain open until 1st November 2024 and the cohort start date will be March 2025.

Devon Community Pharmacy Strategy

NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) which oversees and makes decisions about local health services, is developing a strategy for Community Pharmacy in Devon. They are asking people to [complete a short survey](#) which has been developed in response to feedback received from patients,. The survey highlights the key areas that most patients think are important.

All feedback is anonymous and people will not be identified. It takes about 15 minutes to complete and the closing date is the 14th August 2024.

There is a link to a poster that has been developed with a QR code (below), if you were able to download and print off a copy of the poster and display in your health promotion area that would be fab!



Tick bites and Lyme Disease resources for pharmacy teams

While tick bites and Lyme disease are not treatable under the Pharmacy First clinical pathway for infected insect bites, understanding the early symptoms of Lyme disease and recognising the [EM rash](#) is important to ensure appropriate advice is given and patients are signposted to their GP.

Lyme Disease UK has a [dedicated](#) page on their website for pharmacy teams, and one for other [health professionals](#).

New: Update from NIHR

NIHR has agreed to Research Masters studentships being open to applicants with **up to five years' experience of practice** in the health or care profession for which they hold the required registration. It is still possible to provide flexibility for instances such as career breaks or time out for caring responsibilities so long as experience of practice fits with this guidance. Overall, if you have no more that five years of experience of practice, you can apply for a studentship.

There has been consideration of health and care professionals working on skilled worker visas and the requirements for Research Masters studentships. Health and care professionals working on skilled worker visas and registered with eligible regulatory bodies may be eligible for research masters studentships in specific

circumstances. In line with all applicants, those with **up to five years' experience of practice (UK and international practice)** will be considered. If you have more than five years' experience of practice in UK and International settings, you will not be considered but there are other opportunities available. Flexibility for instances such as career breaks or time out for caring responsibilities is possible so long as experience of practice fits with this guidance. Because of the requirements of skilled worker visas, employer support is also required. This will need to be discussed and negotiated on an individual basis.

Research Masters Studentships in South West Central Region

The deadline for applications for the Research Masters Studentships for South-West Central will be extended to **Wednesday 14th August 2024** to allow for late applications.

Information about how to apply is available on our webpage:

Email insight.swcentral@uwe.ac.uk with any queries about the above information.

Community Pharmacy Devon Weekly Digest

We are currently trialling a weekly digest newsletter which will eventually replace our paper newsletter, the Golden Pages.

Our main aim is to make sure you are kept informed of important matters and local updates without too much duplication! Any feedback on the usefulness or otherwise of the six weekly Golden Pages and/or the weekly digest would be much appreciated – just drop an email to admin@cpdevon.org.uk and let us know.

In the meantime, we'd love to hear your stories about where you have been able to make a difference to your patients' care through utilisation of Pharmacy First, NHS Blood Pressure Checks, New Medicines Service, Discharge Medicines Service or any other service you provide. We will be selecting one super story each month to include in our regular communications out to stakeholders and sending a small gift showing our appreciation to your pharmacy team.

Pharmacy First Service Income

The Activity threshold of clinical pathway consultations increases to 20 per month for August 2024. This means you have to provide a minimum of 20 consultations that pass the gateway point to be eligible for the £1,000 monthly payment.

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE www.devon.communitypharmacy.org.uk

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