**Community Pharmacy Kent Newsletter week 30**

Date: 18/07/2023

This newsletter contains useful information for community pharmacy owners in Kent

**Funding to support expansion of pharmacy technician workforce. Training**

NHS England Workforce, Training and Education (WT&E) directorate are offering funding to support the training of pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians (PTPTs) on a multi-sector training programme, or single sector Community Pharmacy only training programme. The Pharmacy South East team will be holding two 90-minute webinars to provide further details regarding this funding opportunity. Please register to attend one of the webinars using the link below (you do not need to attend both sessions).

[**Thursday 3 August 2023, 10am**](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/9533161c-cb8d-4b3f-903d-1dafc60ce9c6@ffa7912b-b097-4131-9c0f-d0e80755b2ab)

[**Thursday 3 August 2023, 7pm**](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1bd8c5d5-2a4a-448e-97a6-bbe99e1380dc@ffa7912b-b097-4131-9c0f-d0e80755b2ab)

***How much funding is available?***

* £46,099 per PTPT over the 2-year training period.
* Funding is intended to contribute to the cost of developing and running a two-year work based training programme.
* It is recommended education costs are covered through apprenticeship levy.

***What do I need to do to be eligible for funding?***

* Identify you are able to provide educational supervision from a GPhC registered pharmacy professional throughout the full 24-month training programme.
* Complete a short on-line expression of interest with an overview of your proposed training programme. This will be used to shortlist allocation of funding.
* For organisations wishing to deliver a multi-sector programme, have formed a partnership that includes a minimum of two healthcare settings, at least one of which must be responsible for delivery of day-to-day patient facing pharmacy services.

***What support is provided by NHS England WT&E?***

* Initial Q&A sessions for each Integrated Care System with the NHS England WT&E Pharmacy Technician Lead and dedicated programme facilitator, to help answer any questions and help build networking opportunities for multi sector partnerships.
* Support from a dedicated pharmacy programme facilitator to offer guidance and expertise throughout the 2-year training period.
* Employer network meetings to share experience, practice and resources.
* A range of resources including examples of job adverts and learning plans shared by existing training placements.

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Update**

North East London Foundation TrustNELFT run CAMHS services in Kent will be issuing clinic prescriptions using EPS **from 24th July 2023**. The impact should be negligible to nominated community pharmacies, as these prescriptions will follow the same dispensing processes currently used for existing primary care EPS dispensing.

# **Key messages for Community Pharmacy**

* Prescriptions are likely to be from patients that you are already supplying medication to on a regular basis.
* Patient nomination will be set as a “one-off” nomination for each individual prescription.
* Processing of the prescription should follow existing EPS dispensing processes.
* Prescription queries back, should follow existing communication routes.
* Feedback /recommendations regarding outpatient EPS prescribing can be highlighted to the LPC.

**Methotrexate incident Patient Safety**

Following a recent incident whereby a patient was prescribed methotrexate to be taken weekly. The prescribing and dispensing were correct. However, the patient wasn’t counselled on the weekly dose and so took methotrexate daily. The patient was subsequently hospitalised.

Please be reminded of the following recommendations following the MHRA (Sept 2020) Drug Safety Update: Methotrexate once-weekly for autoimmune diseases: new measures to reduce risk of fatal overdose due to inadvertent daily instead of weekly dosing.

* Ask to see the patient’s monitoring booklet and check if any dose changes have been made since the last prescription issue.
* Always check for drug interactions. If a drug interaction is identified, ensure prescriber is made aware before dispensing.
* Pharmacists should refuse to dispense and query any prescription for 10mg tablets.
* On dispensing, the pharmacist should ensure the defined day of the week is clearly displayed on the dispensing label and on the outer packaging.
* Check carefully at every new prescription /dispensing that the patient/carer understands that the medicine must be used once weekly, and that overdose can lead to serious side effects.
* Inform the patient/carer of signs of overdose and instruct them to promptly seek medical advice if they think they have taken too much methotrexate.
* Oral methotrexate products with indications requiring once-weekly dosing come with a Patient Card (July 2020), which will prompt patients to take methotrexate once a week and to record the day of the week for intake.

**Community Pharmacy Assurance framework (CPAF) Deadline**

The 2023/24 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire is now available for completion**until midnight on Sunday 30th July 2023**.

The short screening questionnaire consists of 10 questions. Pharmacy owners who use the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) [**Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/mys) will be required to complete the questionnaire on the portal. Those who are not yet signed up to MYS will be able to complete the questionnaire online.

Community Pharmacy England has published a short Briefing on the screening process. [**Read the briefing**](https://cpe.org.uk/briefings/briefing-016-23-cpaf-screening-process-for-2023-24/)

**CGL quarterly MAT reviews and training for West Kent pharmacies Deadline**

The new Service Level Agreement was introduced to all current pharmacies on the 1st April 2023. Many pharmacies are now up and running on pharmoutcomes and are recording appropriately.

However, there are still a few pharmacists that have not completed their CPPE and who have not completed their quarterly MAT reviews on patients. Contractors will be paid £30 per completed review. CGL are also looking for new pharmacies in all the West Kent Areas especially Gravesend to sign up to the service.

**ICB Medicines optimisation newsletter **

**Community Pharmacy Kent**

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