



Newsletter

4th August 2023

Week 31

This newsletter contains useful information for community pharmacy owners in Kent

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you are having a great week.

Yesterday, I visited Asda pharmacy at Swanley with Sarah Leaver, Public Health Pharmacist at Kent County Council, to review pharmacy services provision in the area. During the visit, the level of **professionalism** shown by the pharmacy team was evident, in ensuring that patients have access to medicine and their pharmaceutical needs are met.

I was also **encouraged** by the level of **collaborative** working between the three pharmacies in the area, Well and Swanley pharmacies working as a team with their local GP practices.

The work pharmacy team do in the Swanley area is simply outstanding. **Thank you!**

Please continue to advance conversations with your PCN leads on the Hypertension case finding service. We are fortunate to have **funding** to support our PCNs to promote this service which is **brilliant**.

Have a great weekend everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Leaver", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Kind regards,
Mark Anyaegbuna
CEO Kent LPC



August Deadline tracker can be
found [here](#).

Flu and C-19 vacs published (New today!)

The Flu and COVID-19 vaccination service specifications have been published by NHS England this afternoon:

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/nhse-opens-eoi-process-for-autumn-c-19-vacs-service/>

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-service-spec-published-3/>

Funding to support expansion of pharmacy technician workforce - Guidance, webinar recordings and Expression of Interest Online Form (New)

Please see below for useful information on the webinar and next steps

[Pharmacy Technician Workforce Expansion Guidance](#)

Please take the time to read the attached guidance, review the funding criteria and expression of interest evaluation criteria.

[Pharmacy Technician Workforce Expansion Webinar Slides](#)

The slides used for both webinars are attached for your reference. Within the slides you can find contact details for us as a team, as well as other useful email addresses to support utilising the apprenticeship funding.

Pharmacy Technician Workforce Expansion Webinar Recordings

Please use the following links to access the recordings:

[Thursday 03 August, 10am](#)

[Thursday 03 August, 7pm](#)

Drop-in Q&A Session:

The WT&E Pharmacy Technician team will be supporting with networking opportunities and answering any additional questions, by offering drop-in Q&A sessions.

Prior to attending the session, if you have any questions which you would like to put to us and ensure we cover during the session, please utilise the Slido link which you can access via the hyperlink or by going to the Slido website and inputting the #code.

ICS	Q&A Session	Slido
Kent & Medway	10 th August 11:00 Click here to join the meeting	Click here #2837751

Pharmacy Technician Workforce Expansion Expression of Interest (EoI)

Once you have reviewed the guidance, and where applicable, formed your partnerships for a multi-sector submission, please complete the [online EoI](#). This form will not open until Monday 7 August, 09:00 and will close on Sunday 17 September, 23:59.

Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT solution not yet secured. (New)

The national provision of NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT solutions ended on 31 March 2022. Since 1 April 2022, pharmacy contractors have been responsible for securing a new contractual agreement with an assured IT supplier of their choosing.

Pharmacies identified by PharmOutcomes and the DoS team as **NOT HAVING COMPLETED THE PROCESS** to put a contractual agreement in place have received a separate email. Please take action immediately to rectify this.

The options are:

- Contact PharmOutcomes if you wish to remain with them and complete the process to put a contractual agreement in place.
- Contact one of the other assured providers and put a contractual agreement in place with them.

- Deregister from providing CPCS.

If you do not take action, you are at risk of your current PharmOutcomes CPCS licence being revoked. Please note it is a service requirement (section 3.2): [NHS England » Community pharmacy advanced service specification: NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service](#)

3.2 Where IT solutions which meet the minimum digital requirements of the service (as specified within the [NHS CPCS Technical Toolkit](#) and including an application programming interface (API) to facilitate transfer of data into the NHSBSA MYS platform) are available, contractors must utilise one of these systems within the timeframe agreed by NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC). When choosing an IT supplier, contractors should refer to the [NHS CPCS IT Buyers Guide](#).

For your convenience, the Community Pharmacy Contractors Guide to CPCS IT Provider 'Switching' is attached. This includes links to the four assured IT providers:

[Cegedim](#)

[PharmOutcomes](#)

[Positive Solutions](#)

[Sonar Informatics](#)

GPCPCS and NHS 111 service update (New)

I am delighted to announce that a briefing paper has been produced by the ICB looking at challenges Community Pharmacies are facing around NHS111 service which has been taken forward to NHS regional team. The document can be found [here](#).

The document was sponsored by Gaye Lewington (Chief Pharmacist), Sukh Singh (Director of Primary Care) and Naomi Finch (Associate Director- Clinical Lead for Community Pharmacy) which is brilliant.

I hope this has helped reassure you that the service is actively being looked at with a view to continuing to improve it. Thank you to all those that attended the NHS111/GPCPCS webinar and provided feedback.

Important documents...

- NHS111 star line for Community Pharmacy can be found [here](#).
- Professional feedback form can be found [here](#).

Reducing the cost of OTC prescriptions (Reminder)

As you are aware, NHS Kent and Medway is hoping to reduce the amount of money spent on prescribing over-the-counter (OTC) medicine.

Last year, we spent £18million on items which could have been brought by patients from a supermarket or pharmacy.

To help try and reduce OTC spend and free up pharmacy time, the ICB is sending pharmacies and GP practices in the highest prescribing parts of **East Kent** patient material aimed at reducing the most frequently prescribed medication. These posters should arrive in the next few days.

We hope you find these useful.

Should you have any queries about OTC prescribing, you can contact our support line on:

01634335095 (option 3 then option 2, open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

ICB OTC position statement can be found [here](#) and briefing can be found [here](#).

Shortage of GLP-1 RAs - key points for community pharmacies (Reminder)

- There are very limited, intermittent supplies of all GLP-1 RAs licensed in the management of T2DM.
- National Patient Safety Alert (NPSA) requiring action by the 18th October 2023.
- Supply is not expected to return to normal until at least mid-2024.
- The supply issues have been caused by an increase in demand for these products, for both licensed and off-label indications.
- GLP-1 RAs should only be prescribed for their licensed indication – **not** off-label use for the management of obesity.
- Do not initiate people with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) on GLP-1 RAs for the duration of the GLP1-RA national shortage.
- **Avoid switching between brands of GLP-1 RAs, including between injectable and oral forms.**
- **Where a higher dose preparation of GLP-1 RA is not available, do not substitute by doubling up a lower dose preparation .**

- **Do not prescribe excessive quantities – one month at a time. Ozempic: one pen has 4 doses, which is 4 weeks supply.**
- **Order stocks sensibly in line with demand during this time, limiting prescribing to minimise risk to the supply chain, whilst acknowledging the needs of the patient**
- Clinical Guidance to support in choosing suitable alternative glucose lowering therapies, during the national shortage of GLP-1 RAs:
[Joint PCDS and ABCD guidance: GLP-1 receptor agonist national shortage NICE NG28 Type 2 Diabetes in Adults: choosing medicines](#)
- It is important to note that specific brands of insulin mentioned within NICE NG28 are unlikely to be able to take a large uplift in prescribing, therefore any decisions on insulin brand choice should be based on ongoing insulin availability noted within the SPS Medicines Supply Tool: [Prescribing available insulins – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice.](#)

Community Pharmacy Kent

Address: 14 Perrin Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5UE

Tel: 07709986660 | Email: Mark.Anyaegbuna@kentlpc.org.uk

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