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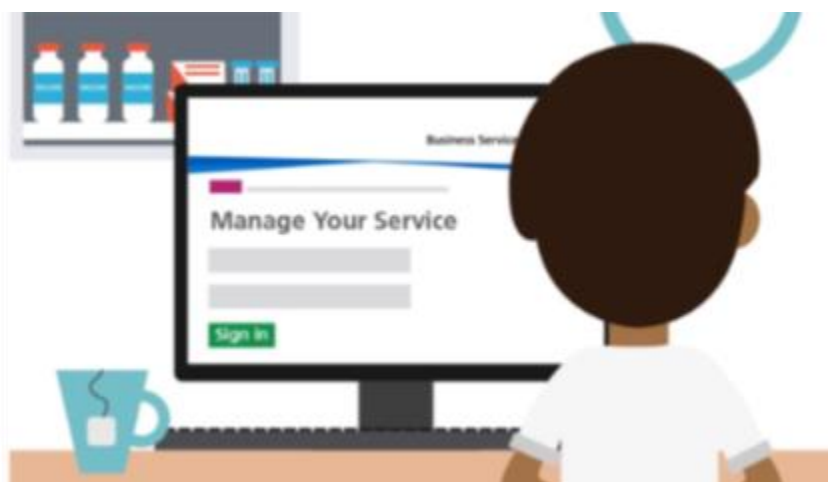


Newsletter

8th December 2023

Week 49

This newsletter contains useful information for community pharmacy owners and staff in Kent



Pharmacy First

Pharmacy first claim window is now open for the initial £2,000 fixed payment.

Click [here](#) for more details



Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinical assessment skills workshops for Kent contractors are now open.

Place booking will be on first come first served bases so don't miss out, **book now!**

Guidance on registration...

- To register for this workshop, click [here](#).
- Scroll down to Mercure Grand Maidstone and book you place.
- Place bookings will be on first come first served bases so don't miss out.

Workshop details are as below...

- Date: 28th January 2024
- Venue: Mercure Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road Maidstone ME17 1RE
- Morning Session: 9.30am-12.30pm
- Afternoon Session: 1.30pm -4.30pm.

Please consider booking training in other places if there no more availability in Kent.

[To download the flyer and for more information click here](#)



Community Pharmacy England Webinars

Community Pharmacy England will be hosting a series of webinars to help

pharmacy owners and their teams prepare for the new Pharmacy First service, and changes to the Contraception and Hypertension Case-Finding Services.

The webinars will be recorded and following the events, the recording will be made available via the CPE website for people to watch on-demand.

[Pharmacy Contraception Service: Initiating contraception](#)

Webinar completed and recording can be found [here](#).

[Pharmacy First: Getting to know the service](#)

(Wednesday 13th December 2023, 7-8.30pm)

[Hypertension Case-Finding Service](#)

(Wednesday 3rd January 2024, 7-8.30pm)

[Pharmacy Contraception Service: getting going with the service](#)

(Wednesday 10th January 2024, 7-8.30pm)

[Pharmacy First: Getting ready for launch](#)

(Monday 15th January 2024 7-8.30pm)



Useful Safeguarding information

If you have a safeguarding concern regarding a child or an adult, please use the link below to report:

[Report abuse - Kent County Council](#)

For some further background and information:

Kent and Medway SAB - KMSAB Policies and Procedures

Safeguarding : CPPE

Please refer to local guidelines for details of safeguarding leads.



Winter increase in GPCPCS referrals

As we go through the winter season, we will be seeing an increased number of GPCPCS referrals coming through our pharmacies. Please see below for some best practice.

Key actions for success:

- Ensure the team are checking pharmoutcomes daily, even when using locum pharmacists, to stay on top of referrals.
- If you have conducted a consultation/ assessment of the patient, and they require a GP appointment, then the referral should be completed, and the outcome of the consultation should be escalation. The referral should not be rejected, if you have completed a full consultation.
- When rejecting referrals, please ensure you are filling out the notes field so this data can be fed back to the ICB and surgeries to reduce the number of inappropriate referrals.

For further information about the service: [CPCS - GP referral pathway - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](#).

If you have any issue or problems completing these referrals, please do not hesitate to contact priya.mattu@kentlpc.org.uk.



Medicines shortages

Medicine shortage is a massive issue for us in Community Pharmacy and it's a UK wide problem. I know pharmacies will not intentionally turn away patients if they could source a product.

Please continue to share alternative available products with the GP so they can review and prescribe accordingly. We need to work in collaboration for the benefit of patients.

Thank you for all you are doing in ensuring patients have access to medicine and in meeting their pharmaceutical need.



Oral contraception and hypertension case finding service (Reminder!)

NHS England has published the updated service specification and PGDs for the Pharmacy Contraception Service and the updated specification for the Hypertension Case-Finding Service.

The expanded service will enable pharmacists to initiate oral contraception, as well as continuing to provide ongoing management of oral contraception that was initiated in general practice or a sexual health clinic.

[Pharmacy Contraception Service: Updated service spec and PGDs](#)

[Hypertension Case-Finding Service: Updated service spec](#)

The changes to the services come into force on 1st December 2023.



Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2023 (CPWS23) (Mandatory and Reminder!)

The [Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2023](#) launched on the 23rd of October 2023 and will close on Sunday the 17th of December. This annual survey is part of the community pharmacy regulations since 2022 and provides consistent, accurate

data to support effective workforce planning. The survey is being conducted by North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of NHS England.

Completion of the survey **is a mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners**. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

For any questions about CPWS23, please contact england.pharmacyteam@nhs.net.

For any questions relating to the online survey, please contact: necsu.reteam@nhs.net.



LFD advanced service (Reminder!)

Free lateral flow device tests available from community pharmacy to [eligible patients](#).

Pharmacy owners must have signed up to the service via NHSBSA's [MYS portal](#).

Participating pharmacies are encouraged to ensure their [NHS Profile Manager](#) profile is up to date, so patients and other health care professionals can check NHS.uk to access the service.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Shortest effective course lengths for antibiotics - amoxicillin

[NICE guidance](#) for common infections routinely recommends the **shortest effective course** of treatment, to reduce selection pressure for antimicrobial resistance and inadvertent patient harm from antibiotic treatment. However, current primary care prescribing data suggests the shortest effective courses of antibiotics are not consistently prescribed and across general practice there is considerable variation in the proportion of short and long course prescriptions.

NHS England has identified and agreed [16 national medicines optimisation opportunities](#) for the NHS in 2023/24. One of these opportunities is to reduce the course length of antimicrobial prescribing with the ambition of achieving 75 per cent of all amoxicillin 500mg capsule prescriptions being issued with five-day course lengths, where NICE guidance recommends that duration, by March 2024.

To support primary care to achieve the NHS England target and ensure that the shortest effective course length is prescribed for more patients, these [infographics](#) have been produced by NHS England.

For information surrounding the key messages, here are [current guidelines for amoxicillin 500mg capsules and recommended actions for practices](#).



Kent and Medway

New Position Statement: Safe Prescribing of Injectable Medicines in Primary Care

The Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) have recently approved a new Kent and Medway position statement on the safe prescribing of injectable medicines. This statement includes key prescribing recommendations to improve the safety of prescribing and minimise any potential harm associated with prescribing injectable medicines and is available on your local [formulary website](#).



Addition of Actimorph orodispersible morphine to formularies and new Morphine Sulfate Liquid Guidance

Oral morphine sulfate liquid has been directly linked to the cause of death in 13 'prevention of future death reports' issued by coroners since 2013, the majority of which related to its use for treating chronic pain. There are a variety of reasons given for this including people 'swigging' from the bottle rather than measuring the dose, people being supplied large quantities over a long period of time, illicit use, self-harm, interactions between the morphine and other prescribed and illicit medication, and a lack of documentation of who collected the supply (Wickaware, 2021; NHS South Region South West, 2016).

Actimorph is a new orodispersible morphine formulation that is available in smaller

doses; 1mg, 2.5mg, 5mg and 10mg. It offers several safety advantages to liquid morphine for patients who may be at risk when using the liquid formulation, examples of these patients are outlined in the new liquid morphine position statement available [here](#). These safety advantages include:

- It is an orodispersible tablet formulation. This would prevent patients at risk of swigging from the bottle from doing so and is easier to measure the dose than using a syringe to draw up the required volume. This is especially beneficial for patients with poor eyesight or poor manual dexterity that are unable to measure their dose of liquid appropriately.
- Is classified as a scheduled 2 CD drug and therefore subject to the additional controlled drug requirements and documentation of who collects the supply. Oramorph 10mg/5ml is a CD5 which gives the illusion that it is 'safer' which is not the case.
- As it is an orodispersible formulation the bottle can't be spilled or dropped.
- Actimorph is available in a wide range of strengths starting from 1mg that allow for precise titration to the minimum effective dose and personalised tapering.
- The orodispersible tablet may be placed on a spoon with a small quantity of water to allow it to be given to patients with swallowing difficulties.

For patient's where it is appropriate to use the liquid, in order to support clinicians to prescribe morphine sulfate liquid safely, [new guidance on the appropriate use of the liquid](#) has also been approved. This includes information regarding the risks and support to help prescribing teams to recognise when their patients may be accidentally or intentionally up-titrating their dose of liquid morphine.



To read Kent and Medway Position Statement: Safe Prescribing of Injectable Medicines in Primary Care click [here](#).

To read Guideline on the Use of Melatonin for the Management of Sleep Disorders in Children, Adolescents, and Adults click [here](#).

To read Shortages Article click [here](#).

To read Emollient Prescribing Guidance for adults and children click [here](#).

To read the latest edition of the **NHSE Primary Care Bulletin** Click [here](#).

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