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Newsletter

8th December 2023

Week 49



Please note this will be the final newsletter for 2023 and we wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday.

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



Dear colleagues

Thank you for all you do in ensuring our patients have access to their medicine and that their pharmaceutical needs are met.

On behalf of the team here at Kent LPC office and Committee members, I want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This holiday season, please do make time to spend with your family and loved ones.

You're Simply the Best.

Best wishes



Mark Anyaegbuna

CEO Community Pharmacy Kent



Christmas & New Year Bank Holiday opening hours 2023/24

Please click [here](#) for Christmas & New Year Bank Holiday Posters 2023-24 detailing which pharmacies will be open on the Bank Holidays across Kent & Medway for your information.

Pharmacies are only listed on the posters if they are opening on one or more of the Bank Holiday dates. Pharmacies that are open on any of the bank holiday will need to update the NHS profile via the [NHS Profile Manager](#).

A map of the pharmacies that will be open on the Bank Holidays can be found [here](#).

For pharmacies that are part of Palliative Care Service, so will have stock of end of life medications, click [here](#). Note: PHARMACIES HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW ON THE SPREADSHEET PARTICIPATE IN THE KENT AND MEDWAY PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE.



Pharmacy First: Final PGDs and protocol published.

NHS England has published the [final 23 Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) and protocol](#) for the Pharmacy First service, which is due to start on the 31st of January 2024.

Pharmacists must read and sign-up to the final versions of the PGDs and protocol, rather than the draft versions, before providing the service.

Further information and FAQs on the service can be found on our [Pharmacy First webpage](#).



Strike action by junior doctors

The British Medical Association (BMA) and Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association (HCSA) have announced junior doctors and dental trainees will take strike action from 7.00am on Wednesday the 20th of December 2023 until 7.00am on Saturday the 23rd of December 2023.

The ICB will be advising patients that the NHS is open for business and that they should continue to attend booked appointments unless they are told otherwise from their provider.

Find [information related to industrial action](#).



New Contractor Guide

The updated new contractor guidance document can be found [here](#).



Consultation on Pharmacy Supervision

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a 12-week consultation on pharmacy supervision. The consultation sets out proposals which (if agreed) are expected to have significant impact and opportunity for community pharmacy to utilise the wider workforce, particularly registered pharmacy technicians to improve healthcare outcomes for patients and local communities.

Key aspects related to community pharmacy:

- Enable pharmacists to authorise (not directly supervise) pharmacy technicians to carry out (or supervise others carrying out) the preparation, assembly, dispensing, sale and supply of medicines.
- Enable pharmacists to authorise any member of the pharmacy team to hand out checked and bagged prescriptions in the absence of a pharmacist.

It is important that community pharmacy contractors and their teams take this opportunity to consider the proposals and respond to the consultation to ensure that the voice of community pharmacy is heard, and you can do this as an individual or as an organisation.

You can take part in the consultation here until 11.59pm on Thursday 29th February 2024.

[To take part in the consultation click here.](#)



Kent & Medway Pharmacy Technician Network- Focused Session on Supervision Consultation

The Kent & Medway Pharmacy Technician Network will be welcoming Liz Fidler from the Chief Pharmaceutical Office at NHS England to talk about the Department of Health's consultation around proposed changes to supervision.

This will be a great opportunity to engage with other pharmacy technicians in the area, hear more about the proposed changes in community pharmacy and pharmacy aseptic units, how you can contribute your views and to contribute to discussions or ask questions.

The network runs fortnightly on a 'join when you can' basis over lunchtime. This session is planned for Thursday the 18th of January at 12.30-1.30, email Naomifinch@nhs.net to be added to the invite.



DHSC permits use of antiviral medicines against influenza

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has advised that, due to increasing flu levels in the community, prescribers in primary care can now prescribe antiviral medicines (oseltamivir and zanamivir) for flu prophylaxis and treatment. Subsequently, community pharmacists may also now supply these medicines at NHS expense.

This is in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance and the Selected List Scheme (SLS). Prescriptions for these products must be endorsed SLS by the prescriber.

[Learn more](#)

The letter from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) can be found [here](#).



VIRTUAL
OUTCOMES

**Online Training for
Community Pharmacy Teams**

Pharmacy Contraception Service

Updated for the new service specification

Now Live and FREE* to view



To read the latest edition of the Medicines Optimisation Newsletter click [here](#).

To read the Anastrozole summary of product characteristics click [here](#).

To read the Licensing of anastrozole for primary prevention of breast cancer click [here](#).

To read the new dementia medication prescribing guidelines for Kent & Medway click [here](#).

To read the list of New Approved Guidelines from the Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee click [here](#).

To read the Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter click [here](#).

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

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