

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



### **27 May 2024 Spring Bank Holiday Poster 2024**

Spring Bank Holiday Poster for Monday 27th May detailing which pharmacies will be open on the bank Holiday across Kent can be found on LPC website by clicking [here](#).

Please ensure that your DoS and NHS.UK profiles are updated with your opening hours if you are open on Monday 27th May 2024. This can be done via the new NHS Profile Manager too.

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



### **This Week's Topical Questions "You Asked Us"**

At Kent LPC, we receive numerous enquiries from our contractors every week. The quality of these questions is consistently high, and we believe that sharing them will benefit all contractors. Moving forward, we intend to include a selection of these topical questions and their answers each week.

We are very grateful to Sachin, a contractor from Gravesend, who attended the LPC May Committee Meeting for this week's questions and put forward the questions below.

- 1. What is Kent LPC doing to support Contractors with Branded Generics? I understand the ICB are going to stop branded generics prescribing unless for patient safety reasons.**

**Kent LPC Reply:** The ICB has stopped branded generic prescribing unless for patient safety reasons. We are pleased with this achievement in collaboration with the ICB. This will help address some of the significant issues we are facing around drug shortages and dispensing at a loss.

We know that there are still legacy branded generics still being prescribed,

so please submit the list to [natalia.bejan@kentlpc.org.uk](mailto:natalia.bejan@kentlpc.org.uk)

2. **My pharmacy is receiving very few Pharmacy First referrals from the local surgery. How could the LPC support collaboration with the surgery to increase their number of Pharmacy First referrals?**

**Kent LPC Reply:** We have weekly meetings with the ICB transformation team to specifically review Pharmacy First referrals in community pharmacy and discuss trends and issues. We also receive and review data of all referrals sent to community pharmacies and send updates to contractors that have outstanding referrals.

We encourage local relationship-building and collaborative working between our GPs and pharmacies for the benefit of patients. Please make time to visit your local surgeries if you have not done so already to start this conversation.

The LPC can support with training in GP practices if required. Please email [Natalia.bejan@kentlpc.org.uk](mailto:Natalia.bejan@kentlpc.org.uk)

3. **The NHS Flu Season will soon be here. I need to have face-to-face vaccination training. Will Kent LPC be providing face-to-face training for contractors and locums?**

**Kent LPC Reply:** We will be providing face-to-face training if we receive sufficient expressions of interest.

We will communicate this once organized. Please look out for it.

---



PrescQIPP provides free support for community pharmacists looking to deliver clinical service.

Kend and Medway ICB subscribes to PrescQIPP and this subscription includes access for pharmacists and technicians working in community pharmacy within our area.

We encourage colleagues to register on the website and access the resources which may be of interest.

[Flyer for community pharmacists](#)

---



#### **DSP toolkit declaration deadline reminder: Fri 30 June 2024**

This is a reminder that the deadline for pharmacies to complete the 2023/24 Data Security and Protection toolkit is **Friday 30 June 2024**. Community Pharmacy England has published a new guidance to help pharmacy owners to complete the tool kit.

Please follow the link [below](#) for the guidance:

Please follow the [link](#) below for the DSP Toolkit:

If you have completed the DSP toolkit, **thank you.**

---



**Medicine Supply Notification: Supply issues with Tegretol®  
(carbamazepine) 100mg/5ml liquid**

A Tier 2 Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) for: Tegretol® (carbamazepine)  
100mg/5ml liquid

Click [here](#) for more information.

---



### Pharmacy Advice Audit

Commencing on **Monday 3rd June**, pharmacies will be asked to record data about patients seeking informal advice (outside of the Pharmacy First service) over the course of a single day.

The audit has been designed to be as straightforward for pharmacy teams as it can be and full instructions will be made available shortly. Click [here](#) for more information.

---





The election for places on the English Pharmacy Board is currently underway. This year we have a few representatives from the Kent region standing which is really good news! You might recognise some faces above.

- **Nirusha Govender**, Associate director for Pharmacy workforce, quality and safety at Kent and Medway ICB (second row far right)
- **Yasmin Karson**, Resident Pharmacist Karsons Pharmacy Chatham (third row far right)
- **Tase Oputu**, Associate Director of Medicines Optimisation, Medicines Value & Performance and Chair, English Pharmacy Board, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (last row far left)

If you are a member of the Society please use the link below or the one that has been sent to your registered email address (check your spam folder if you can't see it). You will find full information for all the candidates on the voting platform.

[Royal Pharmaceutical Society \(mi-vote.com\)](https://mi-vote.com)

Voting closes at 5pm Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May.



**VIRTUAL**  
OUTCOMES

Online Training for  
Community Pharmacy Teams



**FREE Virtual Outcomes Training: Common Skin Conditions Modules Available**

New online training modules around [Fungal Infections](#) and [Acne](#) are now available to access for all pharmacies in Kent.

Click the links above to read more about these new modules.

**Follow the simple steps below to access Virtual Outcomes:**

1. Visit the link [below](#);
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



### **Xaqua® Ordering Process for Community Pharmacies and GP dispensing practices**

Historically, metolazone was only available in the UK as an unlicensed medicine. [Metolazone is now available as a licensed medicine under the brand name: Xaqua® 5mg Tablets \(Renascience Pharma\).](#)

In January 2023, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a drug safety alert cautioning the switching of Metolazone brands without specialist input due to bioavailability concerns. [\(Xaqua MHRA Alert\).](#)

There are key safety concerns around significant variation in bioavailability between alternative preparations of Metolazone. **The bioavailability of Xaqua® is approximately two-fold greater than unlicensed/generic forms of metolazone.**

In Kent and Medway, Metolazone should be prescribed as branded, [Xaqua®](#) and then dispensed as Xaqua® tablets, below is the process involved in ordering Xaqua®.



**Please Note: The preferred route for ordering Xaqua® is via Oxford Pharmacy Stores as other wholesalers list Xaqua® as a special.**

The following information was provided by the manufacturers of Xaqua®:

Xaqua® is supplied via two main wholesalers [Oxford Pharmacy Stores](#) and Alliance Healthcare.

#### **Oxford Pharmacy Stores**

<b>Xaqua® 5mg Tablets (Metolazone)</b>			
<b>Pack size: 20 Tablets</b> (divisible as 2.5mg [half tablet] or 5mg [whole tablet] strength)			
Order via:	Telephone	Fax	Email:
	01865 904 141	01865 337 550	ops.orders@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
Catalogue number:	Xaqua® 5mg Tablets (Metolazone) – XAQ001		
PIP code:	4222402		
EAN code:	5060512180053		

#### **Alliance Healthcare**

Alliance customers are advised to order the product via its specials number Telephone: 0344 854 4998; Email: [specials.orders@alliance-healthcare.co.uk](mailto:specials.orders@alliance-healthcare.co.uk) Fax: 0845 051 877.

The choice to have Xaqua® supplied via this team as a specialist product is purely an Alliance Healthcare decision.



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

---

**Community Pharmacy Kent**

Address: The Hill Hub, 1A Highfield Road, Dartford, DA1 2JH

Tel: 01634 649101 | Email: [Admin@kentlpc.org.uk](mailto:Admin@kentlpc.org.uk)

*Copyright © 2024 Community Pharmacy Kent, All rights reserved.*

To view our newsletter archives click [here](#).

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).