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## Newsletter

11th October 2024

Week 42

This newsletter contains important information for  
Community Pharmacy Kent owners and staff in Kent & Medway



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**Community pharmacy technician apprenticeship programme funding  
(DEADLINE -13.10.2024)**

[Funding is available](#) to support the growth of pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician (PTPT) training capacity.

This programme is offering a training contribution of £15,053 per trainee per year for two years to support sites in developing a PTPTs programme that meets the [GPhC IET standards for pharmacy technicians](#) and the [NHS England Education quality framework](#).

[Pharmacy contractors have until 13 October 2024](#) to submit an [expression of interest](#). Funding contributions are for new PTPTs who have not yet been enrolled or started PTPT training, with training placements to commence between November 2024 and February 2025.

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## Kent and Medway ICB Community Pharmacy Contact Points



### **Message from Gaye Lewington (Chief Pharmacist) and Sukh Singh (Director of Primary Care and Community- Out of Hospital Care)**

*Dear community pharmacy colleagues,  
As the ICB works through winter preparations, we wanted to acknowledge the essential role that community pharmacies play in supporting patients in our communities, with thousands of patients visiting these settings each day to access a range of services such as vaccinations, Pharmacy First, the blood pressure check service and the contraception service. Each of these play a vital role in making it easier for patients to access services, whilst reducing pressure on the wider healthcare system and freeing up appointments for patients who need to be seen in other settings.*

*We would like to extend a huge thanks to all community pharmacy colleagues for your hard work in making these services available to our patients, whilst continuing to provide a core dispensing service to patients, at this incredibly busy time of year.*

*A key focus in Kent and Medway moving into winter is optimising treatments for respiratory conditions. As part of this, there is an opportunity to increase New Medicines Service (NMS) consultations for patients newly diagnosed or prescribed a new medicine to manage their asthma and COPD, along with several other long-term conditions. The ICB will include a summary of this within the GP bulletin to make GP practices aware that they can sign-post patients to this service, and this can be supported by community pharmacy also identifying these patients within the pharmacy.*

Many thanks  
Gaye and Sukh

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**Information on local Hypertension Case Finding in Dental Pilot.**

*Dear Community Pharmacy Colleagues,  
NHS Kent and Medway has been selected to run a small-scale pilot to investigate the potential of using Dental practitioners to help support the identification of patients with high blood pressure. The pilot will be running from November 2024 until August 2025. 16 dental practices have signed up to provide blood pressure checks to consenting patients when they attend dental appointments.*

*As part of this service, if a patient is seen to have a higher reading, the patient will be asked if they wish to be referred to their local pharmacy for further testing. This communication mechanism will be via NHS.net email and the dentist will email a referral through to the chosen pharmacy for them to process. Therefore, we are reminding pharmacies to regularly check their NHS.net mailboxes and process any referrals that come in from local dental practices. The dentist will utilise the NHS national [website](#) to check if the pharmacy is signed up to provide the service and so please ensure your sign up records are up to date.*

*The patient is made aware that the checks are not for diagnosis purposes and that further checks would be beneficial to better understand their readings and if further investigation with a GP is required. This new initiative will help us*

*understand how we can further integrate primary care and make every contact count. It also provides a different avenue of referrals into community pharmacy to be completed as part of the Hypertension Case Finding service.*

*Should you need any further information please don't hesitate to contact us at [Kmicb.pod@nhs.net](mailto:Kmicb.pod@nhs.net)*



**Pharmacy First caps from October 2024**

From October 2024, Pharmacy First caps will be based on actual service delivery. Further details are included in the Part VIC Drug Tariff Determination. Caps are calculated based on a quarterly allocation but will operate as a monthly cap. For example, a band 3 pharmacy will be paid for a maximum of 169 clinical pathway consultations delivered in October, November and December 2024. Activity can be delivered above the monthly cap but the £15 per consultation service fee will not be paid.

	Average Pharmacy First clinical pathway consultations delivered per month (May 2024 to July 2024)	Maximum number of Pharmacy First clinical pathway consultations per quarter for which payment will be received	Maximum number of Pharmacy First clinical pathway consultations per month for which payment will be received
Band 1	Less than 15	390	130
Band 2	15-17	436	145
Band 3	18-19	506	169
Band 4	20-24	597	199

Band 5	25-33	776	259
Band 6	34+	1,521	507

A list of contractors, their assigned Band, and monthly cap is included below:  
[Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway caps - October 2024 to December 2024 \(Excel: 222KB\)](#)



### **Provision of the NHS lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatment**

NHS lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatment (LFD) (via the NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA) MYS portal) should be available at your pharmacy if you have signed up to the service.

The NHS service finder tool can be used to find the nearest pharmacies that provide the service. This link is as below alongside the service specification.

- Specification: [NHS England » NHS lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatment: service specification](#)
- Service Finder Tool: [The pharmacy COVID-19 rapid LFD test supply service finder](#)

Following the publication of [updated guidance by NICE](#) on 13 March 2024, additional patient groups are now eligible for COVID-19 treatments and in line with the recommendations, NHS England expanded access to NHS LFD testing from 1 April 2024. The full eligibility criteria are:

- People aged 85 years and over
- People with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device
- People on the organ transplant waiting list
- People resident in a care home who are aged 70 years and over
- People resident in a care home who have a BMI of 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more
- People resident in a care home who have diabetes
- People resident in a care home who have heart failure
- People currently in a hospital who are aged 70 years and over
- People currently in a hospital who have a BMI of 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more
- People currently in a hospital who have diabetes
- People currently in a hospital who have heart failure

The pharmacy contractor should satisfy themselves that:

- the patient is eligible to receive LFD tests as set out in the [NICE guidelines](#)
- it is providing tests to potentially eligible patients at appropriate intervals
- requests do not exceed what is deemed reasonably required for an eligible patient.

Eligible patients should only receive one box of five LFD tests per consultation. Pharmacies will continue to order LFD tests through their usual suppliers. Please make sure your pharmacy [NHS Profile Manager](#) is updated to show the service is available. If your pharmacy is no longer able to deliver the LFD service please



make sure you de-register via the NHSBSA [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) to save any further confusion.

**Please share the service information and criteria with your pharmacy team to be assured incorrect messaging is not being relayed to enquirers.**

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**The deadline from NHSE for the review of post event messages (PEMs) for clinical services and associated MS form submission has now passed.**

You would have been contacted by southeast community pharmacy team if you not action PEM yet. This is a **PRIORITY** if you have not done so already.

*Please endeavour to review any outstanding post event messages (PEMs) and submit the MS form confirming either completion, or no PEMs, as soon as possible and no later than **Wednesday 30 October**.*

Please ensure you are working through these in line with the guidance attached below to ensure that any notification with a potentially higher clinical risk is dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

The MS Form is available on the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/9GhF3h60Ks>.

Please click here for the [guidance documents](#) and [updates for action](#).

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# ONE YOU KENT

## **NHS One You smokefree training - revised 2-day course date**

Please be advised that the previously advertised date for the 2-day smokefree training has been rescheduled from February 2025 to:

**14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

This training will be held at **NHS Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Kennington, Ashford TN25 4AZ.**

The course duration will be 09:30 to 16:30 each day with attendance required for both dates.

We apologise for the date change and Training will notify any pharmacy / practice that may have requested the original February date.

An updated flyer is attached along with the application form should you wish any one from your pharmacy or practice to be trained as a One You smokefree adviser.



**VIRTUAL**  
OUTCOMES

Online Training for  
Community Pharmacy Teams



Virtual Outcome

All Kent pharmacies should have access to Virtual outcome training platform.

Please use this as you wish for the training and development for your team.

Click the link [here](#) to access Pharmacy Training - Virtual Outcomes and enter your ODS.



- To read the latest news and updates from NHSE Primary Care Bulletin click [here](#).

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