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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 26th April |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Pharmacy Review Steering Group |

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| **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MAKING THE PSNC AND LPC’s FIT FOR THE FUTURE**The Pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG) has reached agreement on a proposed way forward to ensure that the support and services offered by PSNC and the LPCs are fit for the future.Contractors will have **four weeks** to read the proposals after which they will be asked**to vote**to either accept, or reject, the proposals in full.Contractors will soon receive a pre-vote notice from **Civica Election Services** (formerly the Electoral Reform Society) who are managing and overseeing the vote.The pre-vote notice contains important information about the vote and will be sent to contractors’ [NHS.net](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5506775aa0&e=3e5221b889) email addresses and where possible also by post. Contractors will also receive a voting notice nearer to the vote. Only individual contractors will be eligible to vote and the vote results are due to published in **June 2022**. To help contractors to understand the proposals, the RSG plans to hold several contractor briefing events during the pre-vote period in May, **including three national contractor briefing events and seven regional briefing events.** **National briefing events**[National Contractor Briefing Event: Tuesday 3rd May, 7-8pm](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=db51466409&e=3e5221b889)[National Contractor Briefing Event: Wednesday 4th May, 12-1pm](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=3c2c41ee85&e=3e5221b889)**Regional briefing events**[South West Regional Contractor Briefing Event: Monday 9th May, 8-9pm](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=1818068ec5&e=3e5221b889)Please note that while contractors are encouraged to attend their own regional event, all contractors are welcome to sign up to any of these events. There is no need to attend both your regional event and a national event, as the presentations will be the same at all events.  |

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| [**Click here for dates of other events**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b0e3e7906a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Emergency Supply Service - BNSSG Only |

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| **BNSSG EMERGENCY SUPPLY SERVICE**Following a review of the Emergency Supply Service BNSSG CCG have raised some concerns and asked us to remind all pharmacists of the following (please can you pass this onto all pharmacists working in your pharmacy)1. **Controlled drugs in schedules 1 to 3 may not be provided under the scheme, with the exception of phenobarbital for epilepsy****2.**While schedules 4 & 5 may be provided, pharmacists are reminded to exercise caution when agreeing to such supplies and to highlight any concerns to the GP practice. We have seen supplies of dihydrocodeine and also diazepam on days when practices are open.3. **Usually only POMs may be supplied under this scheme. Other items such as appliances, borderline substances, and medicines classified as GSL or P should usually be supplied privately and bought over the counter by the patient (although pharmacist discretion applies in order to avoid unnecessary onwards referrals to GP practices, NHS111 or OOH services for OTC/P medicines on prescription)****4.**A reminder that appropriate quantities should be supplied until a prescription can be arranged. Pharmacists should exercise caution when dispensing emergency supplies of high risk medicines such as Lithium, DMARDS and Anticoagulants and take steps to assure themselves that the necessary monitoring has been undertaken and that a supply is safe and appropriate. With high risk medicines,**the minimum** supply quantity should be provided until the patient can obtain a prescription.5. **Take care to supply items that are current prescriptions and not old treatments that are now being requested by the patient. Please check SCR records with patients consent.****6.** If you are supplying under the ES LES then you are reimbursed for stock so do not need a prescription to cover the supply (although appreciate the patient may need an ongoing prescription to be arranged). |

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| Avon LPC Annual Conference |

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| **AVON LPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2022**Please put the date in your diary - details are still being finalised but as part of that evening we will be exploring the role of independent prescribing in community pharmacy. We will send out further information shortly. |

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| NMS Returns |

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| **Requirement to submit quarterly NMS returns**You are now required to start submitting your completed New Medicine Service (NMS) summary data to the NHS Business Services Authority**each quarter ie** within 10 working days from the last day of the quarter the data refers to (last day of June, September, December, and March). |

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| [**Click here for the online form**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=dcb5fd42c9&e=3e5221b889) |

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| PPE Portal |

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| **Closing of the old PPE ordering portal**Following the launch of the new personal protective equipment (PPE) ordering portal, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has advised that the old PPE portal platform will be closing on **26th April 2022**.Contractors who have previously used the old platform should have received an email to their pharmacy’s NHSmail shared mailbox email address with further information about registering for the new PPE portal platform. |

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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c1301ba38f&e=3e5221b889) |

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| PSNC's New Website |

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| **New PSNC website testing phase continues**The PSNC would like to remind community pharmacy teams that the new PSNC website is now live and in its final testing phase. Thank you to everyone who has already shared positive feedback.  The PSNC have published a short guide highlighting some of the new and improved elements in more detail: [View the introductory guide to the new PSNC website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=19266f0eb1&e=3e5221b889)They would be extremely grateful to anyone who is able to visit the new PSNC website over the next few weeks and let us know your thoughts. You can send feedback either via the short pop-up survey on the site or by email to website@psnc.org.uk. |

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| Annual Flu Letter |

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| **Annual flu letter for 2022/23 published**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have jointly published the annual flu vaccination programme letter for the 2022/23 flu vaccination season.The letter reconfirms the eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 season and the vaccines which will be reimbursable under the 2022/23 Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service. |

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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=d1e9852f1a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| NHS mail on Mobile Devices |

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| **PSNC factsheet about NHSmail on mobile devices**PSNC has published a factsheet for community pharmacy teams explaining how to access the shared NHSmail inbox within the Outlook mobile app. The app provides quick and easy access to NHSmail, and enables contractors to choose how and when they would like to be notified about incoming emails.The one-page factsheet provides a step-by-step guide on how to set-up NHSmail within Outlook apps and how to adjust notification settings. |

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| [**Click here for the fact sheet**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=905f8effe1&e=3e5221b889) |

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| PNA - Have your say |

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| **2022- 2025 North Somerset Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA)**The 2022 - 2025 PNA for North Somerset is due to be published in October this year and North Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board are asking for organisations and individuals to comment on the draft document to see if it accurately reflects the pharmaceutical provision and if they agree with the conclusions.You have until 13th June 2022 to share your views. |

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| [**Click here for the questionnaire**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=68c64351b0&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| Patient Satisfaction Survey |

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| **Patient satisfaction survey: mandatory topics for 2022/23**The requirements for the community pharmacy patient satisfaction survey have been revised. PSNC sought these changes to address requests from contractors to have greater flexibility in the way they undertake surveys of patients' experience of pharmacy services.The revised requirements include the need for a contractor's survey to cover three topics agreed nationally by NHS England and NHS Improvement and PSNC.[Learn more about the three topics agreed for 2022/23](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=afa1032e0b&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Disallowed Items |

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| **Referred back and disallowed items going fully digital via MYS from July 2022**From July 2022 (for the dispensing month of June 2022), MYS will be the only route available to community pharmacy contractors to view and submit the required information for all referred back and disallowed items.At present, using the MYS portal to receive referred back and disallowed items is optional with nearly half of all contractors signed up to receive these digitally. For those still currently using the paper-based route, the final paper referred back and disallowed items that will be sent through the post will relate to prescriptions dispensed in May 2022. |

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| [**For more information click here**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=e1287133d5&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Arrivals from the Ukraine |

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| **Arrivals from Ukraine: advice for primary care**The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have issued guidance to primary care professionals about how to address the health needs of patients ordinarily resident in Ukraine who have arrived in the UK in response to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. |

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| [**Read the OHID/UKHSA guidance here**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=96e6be4504&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Unplanned closures |

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| **PSNC issues guidance on unplanned pharmacy closures**Following the end of the emergency provisions allowing for flexibility of pharmacy opening hours and temporary closures, PSNC has published new guidance to support community pharmacy contractors. From 1st April 2022, as the Government moves to its next stage in the pandemic recovery, the normal pharmacy Terms of Service rules and requirements around unplanned closures of community pharmacies have resumed.According to the regulations, contractors must notify NHSE&I of any unplanned closures for staff illness or other reasonable cause, defined as something that is beyond a contractor’s control. The contractors should make arrangements with other pharmacies in the area for the continued provision of pharmaceutical services and make reasonable endeavours to resume services at the pharmacy as soon as is practicable. |

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| [**For more information click here**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=604af8129d&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Hypertension Case Finding Service now live  |

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| **HYPERTENSION CASE FINDING SERVICE LIVE NOW ON PHARMOUTCOMES**PiharmOutcomes have produced three templates for your pharmacists to use when completing blood pressure tests for patients who you have proactively approached or for patients whom the GP Practice has sent to you as part of the Hypertension Case Finding Service.The templates also have associated with them a number of GP notifications and patients information sheets that you can share with GP practices and patients respectively and include a loan form for ABPM meters and an appointment reminder for ABPM fitting as well as patient information about blood pressure and what their result means.**Payment for the service** - **this needs to be completed manually by the pharmacy as there is NO link between the service and MYS. Please ensure you make all your team aware of this and have a clear procedure in place to keep track of the tests you have completed.** |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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| BNSSG Only - VitaMinds |

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| **BNSSG PHARMACIES ONLY - VitaMinds  NHS IAPT TALKING THERAPIES**VitaMinds provide the NHS Talking Therapies Service in BNSSG, and we are looking to reach out to some of our key partners such as pharmacies to better support you and those that use your services. In the coming weeks we will be sharing some promotional material and information via post with pharmacies to inform both the public and pharmacy staff on how VitaMinds can support someone who is feeling low or anxious. I would be very grateful if you could review this information when it arrives and display it where possible for the public to see. If you have any questions about this, please contact VitaMinds on bnssgpartnerships@vhg.co.uk” |

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| **Training - VirtualOutcomes** |

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| Avon is very lucky to have access to VirtualOutcomes online training, please have a look and make use of this valuable resource.  |

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| [**Click here for VirtualOutcomes**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=63df8917fd&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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