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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 5th April |

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| **NEW this week** |

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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=910fb22ec8&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=8cb2f134f1&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Late prescription submissions |

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| **Charges for late submission of prescription forms**From April 2022 (for prescriptions dispensed in March 2022), NHSBSA may apply an administrative deduction of £25 if a prescription bundle is submitted **late to the relevant pricing division.**Each month, a very small number of contractors submit their prescription bundles very late to NHSBSA. This delays the processing of their prescription bundles in a timely manner and affects the calculation of their advance payments. The £25 deduction reflects the administrative costs involved in NHSBSA calculating and making these payments. |

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| NHSE&I Online Event |

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| **Health and wellbeing online event**NHSE&I is holding an online event on **Wednesday 6th April 2022 between 5-6pm** about the current, dedicated health and wellbeing support offers available to colleagues working in primary care.All community pharmacy colleagues are invited, as well as other primary care colleagues, with the event having a particular focus on how to access support through local mental health hubs. |

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| [**Click here to register for the event**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=fd3c0efa01&e=3e5221b889) |

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| NHS Prescription Charges |

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| **No change to prescription charges for April 2022**DHSC has confirmed that the NHS prescription charge will **not** be uplifted on 1st April 2022. The NHS prescription charge is reviewed annually with changes usually made in April, but this year the Government has yet to conclude consideration of any future increases to prescription charges. |

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| [**For more information click here**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c98e37e7f3&e=3e5221b889) |

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| LFD Tests for Pharmacy Staff |

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| **Ongoing access for pharmacy staff to C-19 testing confirmed**DHSC has confirmed that NHS staff, including patient-facing community pharmacy team members, will continue to be able to access COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests to allow ongoing twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.In a letter sent by NHSE&I said that from 1st April 2022, patient-facing staff should continue to test twice weekly when asymptomatic and that eligible staff will be able to continue obtaining LFD tests through the [Gov.uk](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a4d7cefb4c&e=3e5221b889) portal. LFD tests will also continue to be available through the [Gov.uk](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=47c0aa6018&e=3e5221b889) portal for NHS staff in England with COVID-19 symptoms. |

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| Products Reclassified |

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| **Products reclassified as special containers from April**The DHSC has re-determined the special container status of nine drugs that meet the criteria as set out in the relevant Clause of the Drug Tariff.  |

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| [**Click here for the list of products**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=07f0cd951f&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Drugs Not Deducted list updated |

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| **34 products added to the DND list from this month**As a result of applications made by PSNC, 34 new products have now been added to the list of ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND). From April 2022, the discount deduction scale will no longer apply to prescriptions dispensed for these products. |

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| [**For the full list of products click here**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=9ea37c4035&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Standard Treatment Protocol |

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| **Standard Treatment Protocol for SCS published**The National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) has published a bespoke Standard Treatment Programme, which has been commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement, for the national community pharmacy Smoking Cessation Service (SCS). |

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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=08fe488917&e=3e5221b889) |

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| CPCS IT Contracting Arrangements |

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| **REMINDER - CPCS IT contracting arrangements will change on 1st April 2022**The national provision of NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) IT solutions will end on 31st March 2022. From **1st April 2022**, pharmacy contractors are responsible for securing a new contractual agreement with an assured IT supplier of their choosing.The NHSE&I CPCS IT Provider Switching/confirming guide explains your options:1. **Switch** to another CPCS IT provider (you should inform them well in advance so they can confirm the switch has been successful); or
2. **Stay** with their existing CPCS IT provider (you should notify them so they can confirm a new service agreement with you)
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| [**Click here for the guide**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=99ae5cc548&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| NHSE&I Letter on Flu Vaccines |

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| **NHSE&I letter on flu vaccines for 2022/23**NHSE&I have published their flu vaccination reimbursement letter for the 2022/23 season. The letter provides information on the flu vaccines which will be reimbursable under the 2022/23 Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service, for the two cohorts (65 years and over and at-risk adults aged 18-64).**The letter also highlights that in 2022/23, the NHS flu vaccination programme will only be offered to patient groups eligible in line with pre-pandemic recommendations.** |

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| [**Click here to read the letter**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=93f1155498&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Smoking Cessation Service |

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| **2nd NEW ADVANCED SERVICE - Smoking Cessation Service start date announced**The new Smoking Cessation Service (SCS) will officially commence on **10th March 2022**and contractors will be able to register to provide the service on the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal from 1st March 2022.The service is the**second** of the two new Advanced services to be introduced this financial year (the first being the Hypertension case-finding service) as one of the agreed outcomes from negotiations for Year 3 of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework. A draft version of the SCS service specification is now available and PSNC has published a range of resources to support contractors. |

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| [**Click here for further information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=58ea8ae018&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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| GPhC Temporary Register to Close |

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| **GPhC temporary register to close**The healthcare professions temporary registers, including that of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), are set to close on **30th September 2022**.The GPhC temporary registers were set up to rapidly register pharmacy professionals to assist in the national response to the COVID-19 emergency. However, any temporary registrants who wish to continue to practise as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician after 30th September will need to apply to re-join the main register. |

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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=64534cc5df&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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