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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 24th May |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Prescription Charges |

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| **NHS prescription charges to remain at £9.35 per item for 2022/23**The Department of Health and Social Care has now announced that NHS prescription charges in England will remain frozen for the rest of 2022/23. This follows a previous comment that the NHS prescription charge would not be uplifted on 1st April 2022.This means that charges for prescriptions will **remain at £9.35 for a single charge**, and the cost of prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs) will also remain unchanged at £30.25 for 3 months and £108.10 for 12 months. |

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| Review Steering Group |

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| **RSG: Less than 10 days until contractor vote opens**The Review Steering Group (RSG) is reminding community pharmacy contractors that a contractor vote on proposals to improve PSNC and LPCs will open on Friday 27th May.In an email update issued last week, the RSG urged contractors to engage with the process. The Group also described some of the support available to help contractors understand its proposals, including:* [An additional national briefing event](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8ab8f88c15&e=3e5221b889) to be held on Tuesday 7th June at 7pm;
* [Answers to clarification questions](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=e1dec84ef5&e=3e5221b889); and
* [Animations about the proposals](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ee342dea52&e=3e5221b889).

[Read more on the RSG website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ab0a3f6b31&e=3e5221b889) |

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| SSPs for HRT Medicines |

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| **Ten more SSPs issued for HRT medicines**In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of some Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a further **ten** new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs).Following the [three HRT SSPs](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=2f0e4ccb82&e=3e5221b889) issued at the end of April 2022, the ten new SSPs, introduced with immediate effect, allow community pharmacists to consider different options to enable continued supply of HRT medicines to mitigate the ongoing supply disruptions affecting certain HRT medicines.Details on the [additional 10 HRT](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a9111f1c34&e=3e5221b889)SSPsMore information is available on the [PSNC’s website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5e8cc7ff0e&e=3e5221b889) |

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| HEE South Foundation Training Programme |

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| The HEE South Pharmacy and Pharmacy Workforce Development South (PWDS) team have, over many years, delivered a regional training programme to trainee pharmacists from hospital, mental health and more recently those who undertake split posts with general practice. We are delighted that for the 2022-23 training year, we are inviting expressions of interest from community pharmacy organisations across our patch (Wessex, Thames Valley, South West) for community pharmacy-based trainee pharmacists to join elements of the HEE South Foundation Training programme. Further details are on the attached flyer. The purpose of the offer is to complement and be in addition to the training your trainee will get at the pharmacy location and through any external training provider(s). For further information about the programme, please join the**webinar on Wednesday 25th May 2022, 13:00-14:00** via the joining information below: Join the webinar on your computer or mobile app[Click here to join the meeting](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f0dd233599&e=3e5221b889)Or call in (audio only)+44 20 7660 8345,,844275000#   United Kingdom, London Phone Conference ID: 844 275 000#To express interest in your trainees joining the HEE South programme, email pharmacy.south@hee.nhs.uk**by Wednesday 8th June 2022**stating the number of trainees at your site(s), your pharmacy location(s), and the tutor/designated supervisor email address. |

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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=82c770e450&e=3e5221b889) |

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| CPCS Provider Pays Model |

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| **CPCS Provider Pays Model - information from PharmOutcomes Team**Following the directions given by NHS England, the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS) has now moved to a provider pays model. This means pharmacies **MUST** select an **IT partner** to manage their CPCS service moving forward if they wish to continue with this service. All IT partners will charge for using their services and your pharmacy is free to select which partner to use.PharmOutcomes - the change requires pharmacies to pay for using PharmOutcomes to deliver the CPCS service. We've kept costs to the pharmacy at a minimum with a simple pay as you go model. For more information on costs, click the link below. The PharmOutcomes team have worked hard to make this transition as seamless as possible for pharmacy teams using PharmOutcomes, developing the new PharmOutcomes Direct portal and supporting customers moving to the new payment model. Since the change, they have maintained links to NHS111 for all pharmacies that previously sat in one of the six areas we supported under the historical NHS contract. Most pharmacies using our system have now signed up to PharmOutcomes Direct to set up payment details, but some have not. If you are currently receiving NHS 111 CPCS referrals into PharmOutcomes at your pharmacy and you have not yet signed up to use PharmOutcomes to support your CPCS service, **you must** sign up via PharmOutcomes Direct as soon as possible. You can access this portal [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ad6409d702&e=3e5221b889). You can reduce the cost of your service management by joining an Affinity Group, this is accessible from the home page of PharmOutcomes Direct. Click the link below for more information on joining an Affinity Group. To give the accounts team a chance to set up all direct accounts, customers will not receive their first CPCS provider pays invoice until after the 23rd May 2022.After that, monthly billing will apply as detailed in the EULA appendix. Pharmacies using PharmOutcomes that have not yet signed up via PharmOutcomes Direct or those who have not yet joined an Affinity Group will be invoiced directly for their activity recorded on the system as detailed in the EULA.If you need any further information, please drop the PST team and an email on pst@emishealth.com  |

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| [**Click here for PharmOutcomes Direct**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=fd33101507&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Avon LPC Annual Conference |

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| **AVON LPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2022**We are excited to be back **face to face**for this years Conference.We are also live streaming this event. Walk in the shoes of a current Independent Prescriber. Hear from a trainee IP about their learning journey. Find out at the conference how this will enhance the community pharmacist role.The conference will also include an update from the Chair and Chief officer of Avon LPC.Along with the Avon LPC Awards - click below to nominate!Please click below to book a place, select either Engineers House for Face to Face or Online - if you select online the zoom link will be sent shortly. |

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| [**Click here for the flyer**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5bc4f45667&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Click here to book**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=26d72e4b5e&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Click here to nominate for an award**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b9bac17f74&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| Data Security & Protection Toolkit |

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| **Data Security & Protection Toolkit: new PSNC guidance available and upcoming webinar**PSNC has published [new guidance](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=31c8b45989&e=3e5221b889) to help community pharmacy contractors to complete the 2021/22 Data Security and Protection Toolkit. The Toolkit is used to make a pharmacy’s information governance (IG) declaration and must be completed by **30th June 2022**. However, contractors are recommended to complete the Toolkit as soon as possible.  PSNC and NHS Digital have worked together to make the process manageable, and will be holding a[joint webinar](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=e69aca955f&e=3e5221b889)to support contractors in completing the Toolkit. |

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| Prescription Returns |

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| **Reported rise in prescription returns due to incomplete endorsements**The NHSBSA has reported seeing a rise in items that are being referred back to contractors due to incomplete endorsements. The NHSBSA notes that this issue is most commonly seen with handwritten prescriptions. Where a prescription does not specify the presentation of a drug that is available in multiple presentations (formulations), the prescription should be endorsed correctly with details of the presentation dispensed to avoid any delays in payment. |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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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=4e313c9f6b&e=3e5221b889) |

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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=8a04790ffc&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| Flu Vaccination Training |

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| **22/23 Local Face to Face Vaccination Training**AHS is delighted to be able to offer Flu vaccination face to face training for the 5th year running. The training will be delivered by experienced paramedics and the feedback from previous years has been excellent. Places will be limited to a maximum of 12 people per session and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. There are 3 sessions initially -Wednesday 13th July 2022 - 7pm-9pmWednesday 20th July 2022 - 7pm-9pmSunday 14th August 2022 - 9.30am-11.30amAll sessions will be held at the LPC Office, Staple Hill, Bristol.Cost  £75 for AHS members and £105 for non members.Please e mail if you would like to book a place office@avonhealthcareservices.co.uk with your name, contact detail and the date you would like to book.For further information please contact judith@avonhealthcareservices.co.uk |

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| Independent Prescribing Opportunities |

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| **Independent Prescribing opportunities available in Autumn**We have been made aware that there will be more funded Independent prescribing training places available in the Autumn and we will have access to a number of these. Pharmacists wishing to apply for these will need to meet the eligibility criteria which are listed below.  As a minimum, pharmacists will to have:1. The support of an identified designated medical practitioner (DMP) or designated prescribing practitioner (DPP). You need to start building relationships with your colleagues in practices now. 2. An appropriate placement in a prescribing setting, arranged for practice based learning.3. Evidence you meet the Higher Education Institute (HEI) eligibility criteria (applicants will be subject to their chosen HEI’s enrolment procedure).4. Commitment to use the skill for the delivery of NHS services as they emerge. |

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