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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 3rd May |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Pharmacy Review Steering Group Proposals |

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| **RSG proposals now published and upcoming briefing events - IMPORTANT INFORMATION**The Pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG) proposals on the future of the representation and support provided by PSNC and LPCs have now been published on the RSG website. The RSG has been working to solve the issues identified by David Wright’s Independent Review into community pharmacy contractor representation and support and publication of the proposals follows a year of extensive listening, exploratory work, analysis, and discussion within the sector.Contractors now have **four weeks** to read the proposals, after which you will be asked to vote to either accept or reject them in full. A **three-week** voting period will begin in the **w/c 23rd May,**during which contractors can cast their vote using a secure and trusted online voting system.To help contractors to understand the proposals the RSG plans to hold several national and regional briefing events during the pre-vote period in May. Information about these events is available on the [**RSG website**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=4bb0aa7138&e=3e5221b889).We strongly encourage all contractors within **AVON**to attend one of the events listed below to learn more about the proposals and to ask any questions you may have.**National briefing events**[**National Contractor Briefing Event: Tuesday 3rd May, 7-8pm**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8436a2f623&e=3e5221b889)[**National Contractor Briefing Event: Wednesday 4th May, 12-1pm**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=bf9ffffeb8&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=71588f3ffe&e=3e5221b889) |

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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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| Pharm Refer |

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| **BNSSG GP CPCS REFERRALS**The CCG has kindly agreed to cover the cost of the Pharm Refer App for 12 months. The App allows GP practices to send referrals for GP CPCS quickly and easily and it has the advantage that the referrals go directly into PharmOutcomes making it easier for pharmacies to identify them.Nothing else changes apart from the method they arrive at your pharmacy ie through PharmOutcomes instead of NHS mail. The GP practices who have taken up the offer will be going live over the next couple of weeks. Please find the full list below. Almondsbury, Gloucester Rd, Pioneer, Wellspring, Armada, Horfield, Pembroke Rd, Westbury on Trym, Air Balloon, Monks Park, Portishead Medical Group, WhiteladiesBedminster Family Practice, Mendip Vale, Streamside,Coniston, Orchard, Stockwood. |

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| Local Scam |

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| **IMPORTANT - LOCAL PHARMACIES ARE BEING HIT WITH POTENTIAL £1000**The LPC has received information regarding a scam that is happening currently in local community pharmacies in our area.The “customer” contacts the pharmacy by phone and asks to order a large amount of goods for example baby milk saying that it is either going to be a charity donation or they are taking it abroad. They then pay by card. Someone else then collects the goods and then the card payment is cancelled or in another instance the credit card was stolen.Please ensure you make all your team aware of this and note the following information;1. Card holder NOT present (CNP) transactions should be declined unless additional information eg security code, postcode numerics, house numerics all match. 2. CNP transactions should ONLY be done when the goods are going to be delivered to the address the card is registered at. If customer pays over the phone and then collects them you will not be able to claim anything back. |

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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. We will be running 3 sessions initially - 2 Wednesday evenings 13th and 20th July from 7pm - 9pm and 1 Sunday Morning 9.30-11.30 (date TBC but likely to be a Sunday in August)All 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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| HRT Medicines Shortage |

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| **Three new SSPs introduced for HRT medicines** In response to a significant ongoing disruption affecting three Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have issued three new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs).These SSPs, introduced with immediate effect, enable community pharmacists in the UK to supply patients with no more than three months’ worth of these medicines.  The protocols allow for a reduced quantity of the specified medicines to be supplied to help manage the ongoing supply disruption affecting these HRT products.The products involved are Oestrogen pump-pack 0.06% gel, Ovestin 1mg cream and Premique Low dose 0.3mg/1.5mg modified release tablets. |

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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c861ed7295&e=3e5221b889) |

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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=e8abc12d74&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=ef53b0d83f&e=3e5221b889)[National Contractor Briefing Event: Wednesday 4th May, 12-1pm](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=76674d6f88&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=2fa0c6256c&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=f96338c2fa&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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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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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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| 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=766fed940c&e=3e5221b889) |

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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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| 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=41801482c7&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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| 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=7debaa3d6c&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=819d01f7e7&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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