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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 21st February |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| PQS Declaration |

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| **PQS 22/23 DECLARATION NOW OPEN**The 2022/23 PQS scheme **declaration period is OPEN between 9am on Monday 6th February 2023 and 11.59pm on 3rd March 2023.** Contractors must have evidence to demonstrate meeting the gateway criteria and the domains that they have claimed for by the end of 31st March 2023.We recommend that contractors complete the Toolkit as soon as possible”For more information [click here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=7cec1856da&e=3e5221b889). |

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| Weight Management |

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| **Weight Management National Health Campaign Data Submission**Please note that you should have received an email on Friday 10th February from NHSE SW asking you to submit your results from the above campaign on PharmOutcomes. You will be able to enter your results from  Monday 13th February to  and Friday 24h February. Please remember it is mandatory as a minimum to report back that you have undertaken the campaign even if it is a nil response.If you have any questions please contact England.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net |

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| Pharmacy Pressures Survey |

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| **Pharmacy Pressures Survey: Please take part**PSNC has launched a nationwide Pharmacy Pressures Survey which will give **us important data**for **use in future negotiations.** Please help us make the case to Government for more funding by completing the surveys via the links below.* [Pharmacy business owners/head office representatives survey](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5ba9840c60&e=3e5221b889)
* [Pharmacy teams survey](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=83991ecfd6&e=3e5221b889)

You can also now download a copy of the survey questions here: [Learn more about the survey](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=75521f8098&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Dispensing & Supply Updates |

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| **Dispensing and Supply Updates**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for the following medicines:* [Meptazinol (Meptid®) 200mg film-coated tablets](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=93a1368cb3&e=3e5221b889)
* [Medroxyprogesterone (Provera®) 2.5mg tablets](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=efda981f09&e=3e5221b889)
* [Lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a365c9b366&e=3e5221b889)
* [Promethazine hydrochloride (Phenergan® elixir) 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=9c4518896d&e=3e5221b889)

A copy of this medicine supply notification, including further information, has been sent to all pharmacy NHS email addresses. |

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| SSP for Paracetamol |

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| **New SSP for Paracetamol issued**DHSC has issued a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Paracetamol 120mg suppositories which came into immediate effect. [Learn more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a4769cf532&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Estradot |

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| **SSPs for Estradot® 50mcg and 100mcg patches** have been further extended to Friday 24th February 2023 and Friday 17th March 2023 respectively. [Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a3ed76dd37&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Pharmacy Funding |

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| **Pharmacy Funding Crisis: PSNC Update**PSNC met for a full Committee meeting early in February to consider the urgent funding and capacity crisis, as well as proposals from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England on price concessions reform and relief measures to ease pressure on pharmacies.The Committee considered the impact of the current crisis, reflecting on the economic pressures that accelerated through the autumn and winter. The worsening situation is now being exacerbated by spiralling workforce costs, dispensing at a loss, inflation and rising demand from patients. **The Committee rejected the proposals on both price concessions and relief measures as being insufficient to meet the sector’s needs.**There is now a high level of interest from Ministers and other decision-makers in the potential role of community pharmacy, particularly in using a Pharmacy First approach and making use of PGDs and the skills of independent prescribers. But we have made clear to them that without new money this is all a pipe dream: we need an urgent injection of funds into the sector, otherwise we will continue to see a degradation of services and eventual collapse of the network. **The Committee is clear that there is no further place for warm words while pharmacy collapses.**[Find out more here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=9c27cd83ba&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Hypertension |

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| **Hypertension Case Finding Service**Please can we remind all pharmacies who have signed up for this service that it offers a huge opportunity to identify patients over 40 who have undiagnosed blood pressure and helps to reduce health inequalities. Hypertension is the biggest risk factor for CVD and is one of the top five risk factors for all premature death and disability in England.  CVD is a key driver of health inequalities, accounting for around 25% of the life expectancy gap (27% in men and 24% in women) between rich and poor populations in England. Those in the most deprived 10% of the population are almost twice as likely to die as a result of CVD than those in the least deprived 10% of the population. Residents of the most deprived areas in England are 30% more likely to have high blood pressure (BP) compared to those in the least deprived areas. |

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| Dexcom One Transmitter |

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| **Dexcom One Transmitter to enter March Drug Tariff**Following representations from PSNC and Dexcom International Ltd, the Department of Health of Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that the Dexcom One Transmitter will be added to Part IXA of the March 2023 Drug Tariff.Previously, patients were advised to obtain the free-of-charge Dexcom One transmitters directly from pharmacies, without a prescription. PSNC told DHSC and Dexcom that these distribution arrangements for transmitters are unacceptable because they result in extra unfunded activity for community pharmacies. Acting upon these concerns, both DHSC and Dexcom agreed to add the Dexcom One transmitter to the Drug Tariff from March. |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| **NMS Voluntary quarterly data returns**NHS England is asking community pharmacy contractors to voluntarily submit New Medicine Service (NMS) quarterly summary data to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) for Quarter 3 (Q3) 2022/23. NHS England want to re-start collection of the quarterly returns to provide baseline data to support a long-term evaluation that will be conducted as part of ongoing work to expand the scope of NMS.PSNC has agreed with NHS England that the quarterly returns will initially be on a voluntary basis, with Q3 (October to December 2022) as the first quarter to be reported. PSNC has also agreed a longer than usual submission period over which submissions can be made. |

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| PQS - Data published |

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| **PQS: Antibiotic Review Data Published**The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has published a spreadsheet showing which community pharmacy contractors have submitted data for their antibiotic review as part of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022/23. On the spreadsheet, contractors have been allocated either a green, orange or red colour. Contractors planning on completing the antibiotic review should note the deadline for starting the audit is **4th February 2023**, which is exactly eight weeks until 31st March 2023 which is the deadline for completing the PQS requirements.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a019b843e0&e=3e5221b889) |

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| SSPs Extended |

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| **SSP’s Extended**Due to continuing supply issues, the eight Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) currently in effect for Penicillin V products (SSPs 040-047) which are due to end on 31 January **are being extended**The end date for these SSPs will now be**28 February 2023.**In addition, SSPs 043-047 have been amended to remove the options of azithromycin and clarithromycin. |

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| Data Security & Protection Toolkit |

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| **Data Security and Protection Toolkit guidance**PSNC has published new guidance to help community pharmacy contractors to complete the 2022/23 Data Security and Protection Toolkit. The Toolkit is used to make a pharmacy’s information governance (IG) declaration and the deadline for completion is **Friday 30th June 2023**.PSNC collaborated with NHS Digital to keep the workload associated with Toolkit completion manageable and published our guidance materials as soon as was practicable. Contractors are advised to read the guidance and consider the Toolkit in their workload planning. [Read our new Toolkit guidance](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=806a42c171&e=3e5221b889) |

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| SSP's |

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| **Serious shortage protocols (SSP’s)**SSPs are a potential way to help pharmacies to manage any serious shortages of medicines that may occur, without needing to refer patients back to prescribers.Please ensure all your team are aware of the current SSP’s in force currently. More information is available [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a7a59330f7&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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| Online Survey - South Glos only |

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| **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE PHARMACIES ONLY - Have your say:  Proposed model for delivery - South Gloucestershire Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services (adults).** An anonymous online survey is being conducted to find out what local people think about South Gloucestershire Council’s proposed model for delivering adult drug and alcohol services.  **Survey closes 17 March 2023.** We are especially keen to hear the voices of people who may experience barriers to accessing our services, including people with disabilities, so we would be grateful if you could circulate this widely among your colleagues and service user forums.  A paper version of the survey is available, pdf attached, please contact us if this is not accessible, or you would like translated versions or multiple paper copies: consultation@southglos.gov.uk  * **Information about what is proposed, and why, is on our consultation page**:

[Drug and alcohol treatment services commissioning - South Gloucestershire Online Consultations (southglos.gov.uk)](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=0fb374ac1e&e=3e5221b889)* **Please  click here  to complete our short survey.**[https://southglos.researchfeedback.net/s/j277p3](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ff07ac771c&e=3e5221b889)
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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=7206fbd451&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.Most recent training launched is how our pharmacy teams can support breastfeeding mothers. It looks at the available resources to give our pharmacy teams confidence in supporting mothers to safely take their medicines whilst breastfeeding. |

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| [**Click here for VirtualOutcomes**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a9af260e01&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Click here for Drugs in Breast Milk Flyer**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f5f45bf917&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| Pharm Course - New Sites |

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| **HOST SITES FOR NEW Pharm Course from Oct 23**The MPharm placement team at the University of Bath is looking for new sites to host undergraduate clinical placements in the new MPharm from Oct 2023.  The new MPharm will have significantly more placements in the course. In order to start this work we are keen to engage new placement providers this semester as we have an MPharm2 placement w/c 13th March. Do contact the placements team if you are willing and able to be a placement host and / or would like to find out more at PA-placements@bath.ac.uk |

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| Dermatology Training |

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| **Dermatology Training - Wednesday 22nd March**Please find attached details of  an evening webinar of skin conditions.If you wish to attend please e mail Dan Brown DABRW@leo-pharma.com for details of how to sign up.[More Information](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=bb6bd719b9&e=3e5221b889) |

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