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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 28th February |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| HRT |

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| **DHSC announces rollout of HRT prescription prepayment certificate**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=30156fa862&e=3e5221b889) that women in England will be able to access cheaper Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for menopause through a new Hormone Replacement Therapy prescription prepayment certificate (HRT PPC).Whilst PSNC remains supportive of the Government’s decision to make HRT medicines more accessible to women at a reduced cost, we recognise that the implementation of this new type of PPC will introduce additional workload and financial risks for community pharmacy teams. We have made repeated representations directly to the Minister for Women and the DHSC to make all HRT medicines free-of-charge items (similar to contraceptives) but the Government recognised the issues, the Minister has decided to press ahead with the policy.PSNC will publish further guidance for contractors once the Department has finalised details of the changes.[Learn more about the HRT PPC](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=788625d726&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Engaging with PSNC |

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| **Engaging with PSNC – please share your views**From April 1st PSNC will be renaming to Community Pharmacy England and putting in place a new communications and engagement strategy. We want to engage better and more regularly with pharmacy owners, to hear more of your views and ideas, and to enable to you to input more directly into the organisation.As we develop our new strategy, we would like to hear your views on what we can do better in the future, and how you want to engage with Community Pharmacy England. To help do this, our rebranding agency will be running a two-hour workshop on Zoom on **Tuesday 7th March, from 7pm to 9pm**.Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, but all pharmacy owners are also invited to share their views on what they want to hear from Community Pharmacy England, and how they want to input their views to it,  by email to commsteam@psnc.org.uk.Please click here to register your interest in the workshop or to email us your views.[Learn more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=59b91e55e8&e=3e5221b889) |

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| PSNC Elections |

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| **PSNC Elections: check your details are correct for voting**Independent community pharmacy contractors and non-CCA Multiple contractors were previously asked to review the information that PSNC holds about them, including their NHS contracts/premises and contact email addresses, as part of preparations for this year’s PSNC elections.Contractors who have not yet done so are asked to check and update their information and submit any questions via the following [**webform**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=871e6c6b3c&e=3e5221b889) by no later than **Wednesday 8th March**.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=54e02fab7c&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Independent Prescribing |

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| **Independent Prescribing courses 2023-24 – HEE training offer extended for another year** Health Education England are pleased to announce that applications for independent prescribing courses starting in spring 2023 **are open**. Courses will be available from April 2023 to March 2024, with several universities offering multiple dates for cohort intakes. Start dates will depend on the university provider. HEE is encouraging all pharmacists from across sectors, including community pharmacy and locums, to seize this opportunity. Pharmacists who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to apply for one of the almost 3,000 places on independent prescribing courses at a variety of universities across England:  |

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| Independent Prescribing Funding |

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| **Funding** Independent Prescribing training is available to pharmacists who meet the eligibility criteria. Tuition fees are fully funded by Health Education England (HEE). Pharmacists that are successful in applying to one of the approved universities will be allocated a fully funded place directly by the university. They do not need to apply to HEE for funding separately. Eligible pharmacists can apply to universities listed on the [HEE website.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f663d5ca05&e=3e5221b889)**They will need to demonstrate (as a minimum):** ·       The support of an identified designated prescribing practitioner (DPP).·       An appropriate practice-based learning environment in a prescribing setting that can offer appropriate clinical support.·       Evidence that you meet the course provider eligibility criteria (applicants will be subject to their chosen university’s enrolment processes).·       Commitment to use the skill within your area of competence and expertise, for the delivery of NHS clinical services as they emerge.**For any further enquiries, please contact**pharmacyteam@hee.nhs.uk or Anne.avonlpc@gmail.com for further information. |

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| Welcome Space |

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| **Community Welcome Spaces across South Gloucestershire**We have been asked to make you aware of South Gloucestershire’s Welcome Space initiative.These are for anyone who might be out and about and want to drop in for a warm cup of tea and some company. Please can you display the attached poster in your pharmacy and make patients/customers aware of the scheme.Venues can still apply to become a Community Welcome Space and need to have the space and ability to provide a warm drink, activities and support using the grant application highlighted on the poster so new ones are popping up all the time and the website is the best point to promote as it is updated regularly. |

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| [**Click here for the poster**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=0159a710b0&e=3e5221b889) |

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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=b2a2889fdc&e=3e5221b889). |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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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=3b189b553a&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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| 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=0eace0b0ef&e=3e5221b889) |

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| NMS |

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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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| 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=381411f509&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=fda9a71243&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=4cce48b576&e=3e5221b889)
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| [**Click here for more information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=629614962a&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=5e5bc50d74&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=0fb68b4be8&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=71bdf04b83&e=3e5221b889) |

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