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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 21st March |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Clinical Examination Skills |

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| **Fully Funded Offer for Clinical Examination Skills Training For Community Pharmacists** HEE are  making available 10,000 module places as part of the Pharmacy Integration Programme at NHS England. The training will be delivered by CliniSkills until March 2024. The programme will be available from 17th April 2023, with pre-registration **now open** to all community pharmacists. This exciting new training offer will give you the opportunity to build on your existing clinical examination and consultation skills - to assess, treat and manage common health problems. Following completion of a pre-required, online gateway module on history taking and identification of serious conditions, you can choose your preferred journey through four optional modules, based on professional interests. These modules cover four key themes: dermatology, cardiology, paediatrics, and ear, nose and throat. The module content will be delivered online using a flexible and responsive eLearning system, with optional face-to-face attendance for pharmacists who would find this beneficial. Pharmacists can complete the training at a pace and time of their choice. Face-to-face workshops will be scheduled to accommodate pharmacist working patterns.The training is designed to be complementary to independent prescribing training and can be completed prior to or after independent prescribing training courses.  **Who is eligible:** This offer is available to community pharmacists, including part time staff and locums working in community pharmacy. To register and find out more about the training visit the [CliniSkills website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=818330e6c0&e=3e5221b889)[.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8514c7c216&e=3e5221b889)To find out more about the Pharmacy Integration Programme, visit the [Health Education England website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ed29d299d3&e=3e5221b889). |

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| Budget Changes |

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| **Budget Changes**From 1st May 2023, Government will extend the VAT exemption on healthcare to include medical services carried out by pharmacy staff directly supervised by pharmacists. This will help as pharmacy businesses try to make better use of the skill mix within pharmacies now and in the future. Later this year, the Government will also extend the zero rate on prescriptions to medicines supplied to patients through Patient Group Directions. |

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| Medicines Recall |

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| **MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Pholcodine-containing products**The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a class 2 medicines recall for all pholcodine-containing products (from various marketing authorisation holders). Following the conclusion of a review of post-marketing safety data by the MHRA, all pholcodine-containing medicines are being recalled and withdrawn from the UK as a precaution. [Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=576db2dd42&e=3e5221b889)Updated information on HRT pre-payment certificate |

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| **HRT pre-payment certificate**To reduce prescription costs for women receiving Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), on 1 April the Government is launching the [HRT Pre-Payment Certificate (PPC)](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8159cbb940&e=3e5221b889). To enable this, from the start of April prescribers will need to issue prescriptions for HRT items (which are listed in the Drug Tariff as being HRT licensed for the treatment of menopause) as single-item prescriptions (i.e. separate from other prescription items). Further guidance for prescribers on the HRT PPC will be published in due course.  Find out more in our previous articles:* [New regulations to accompany the introduction of HRT prepayment certificates (HRT PPCs)](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6fa740dfa1&e=3e5221b889)
* [DHSC announces rollout of HRT prescription prepayment certificate](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=32ee6c1c81&e=3e5221b889)

PSNC will start publishing supplementary guidance next week. |

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| Save Our Pharmacies! |

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| **Pharmacy bodies launch Save Our Pharmacies campaign website**A Save Our Pharmacies campaign website has been created by leading national pharmacy bodies, to give new focus to calls for fair pharmacy funding in England.This is the latest output of a [**joint programme of work**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=d07493d0e8&e=3e5221b889) being coordinated by PSNC, CCA, AIM and the NPA. It comes the same day the group launched a new [**public petition on the ’38 Degrees’ platform**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=0b4cd563bf&e=3e5221b889), which calls for immediate, fair and sustained funding to safeguard NHS pharmacy services.The newly launched site contains key messages for public, politicians and stakeholders, and hosts campaign resources to be used by pharmacy teams.  It will undergo further development as the campaign progresses, with new resources added to ensure maximum public engagement.A further resource in the form of a window poster is being printed and will shortly be mailed out to all community pharmacies in England.[Read more and visit the Save Our Pharmacies website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6362ebbbef&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| Valproate Audit |

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| **URGENT : Have you submitted your national valproate audit 2022/23 data?**You are reminded that by **31st March 2023,** you must have completed the 2022/23 national clinical audit on valproate over a six-week consecutive period, and have submitted the data via the Valproate audit 2022/23 tab on the **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=74b9621d98&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Prescription Charge |

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| **Prescription charge rises to £9.65**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that from **1st April 2023**, the NHS prescription charge will **increase to £9.65 per prescription item**.Amendments to the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations have been laid before Parliament which will introduce changes for NHS prescription charge and prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs), as well as the introduction of the Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) PPC.PSNC is in the process of updating its charge card and PPC poster. These will be available on their website in due course. Read more [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8bdfd58511&e=3e5221b889) |

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| NHSE Terms of Service |

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| **ALL Pharmacies - NHSE Terms of Service End of Year Requirements**As part of the Terms of Service all community pharmacies are required to confirm they have completed the following requirements of the Terms of Service for this year 2022/23: The following annual declarations are required:-1. **Pharmacy Patient Leaflet Available -**Deadline 31 March 2023
2. **In House Clinical Audit -**Your own Company (in house) clinical audit has been carried out. **Deadline 31 March 2023.**
3. **Annual Complaints Review for period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023**.

To be compliant you need to have completed the PharmOutcomes Annual Complaints return or your Head Office must have submitted on your behalf. **Deadline 30th April 2023** A self-declaration form is now available on PharmOutcomes for all Community Pharmacies to complete. Please log into PharmOutcomes [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=029e1b4228&e=3e5221b889) and complete the self -declaration form for your pharmacy to confirm compliance with the requirements of the Terms of Service for 2022/23. If you have any queries with the above, then please do not hesitate to contact the pharmacy team via england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net.  |

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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=67f945e9de&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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| Health & Wellbeing Newsletter - BNSSG |

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| **BNSSG Pharmacies** - **Health and Wellbeing Newsletter**Dear colleagues,Welcome to this month's health and wellbeing newsletter. We hope you find it useful and please do share with your colleagues in your organisation. For more information on health and wellbeing in primary care, please visit our [TeamNet page](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6a01cf331a&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=b59f1e7f9a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| [**Click here for new Smoking Cessation Training**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b72aed3582&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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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=53160116ed&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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