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| **Weekly Update - Easter Edition!**Tuesday 4th April & Tuesday 11th April |

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| **2 week Newsletter!** |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Prescription Charge |

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| **PSNC issues Prescription Charge Card for 2023**Following the Government's decision to increase the NHS prescription charge and introduce a HRT prescription prepayment certificate from 1st April 2023, PSNC has designed two posters that can be displayed in community pharmacies.PSNC's Prescription Charge Card confirms the new NHS prescription charge of **£9.65 per item**, explaining that this is a tax from the Government that does not benefit the pharmacy who collects it in any way, and highlighting the cuts to pharmacy funding. Meanwhile, the Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) Poster provides information on how much PPCs can save patients, as well as describing the new HRT PPC.Find more information and posters [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6039fa501d&e=3e5221b889) |

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| PQS |

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| **PQS reminder** - **Deadline for claiming for NMS for them to be included in a contractor’s NMS count for the gateway criterion of PQS is 5th April 2023**To meet the Advanced services gateway criterion, contractors are required to have claimed payments for the completion of a minimum of 20 NMSs between 1st April 2022 and 5th April 2023. Any claims received by NHSBSA after 5th April 2023 will not count towards meeting the PQS gateway criterion. |

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| Commissioning Services |

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| **Delegation of Commissioning Services for Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry.**Please find attached a letter outlining the arrangements which will be in place after 1 April when commissioning responsibility for pharmacy, optometry and dental services will be delegated to ICBs.As noted in the letter we, the NHS England South West Pharmacy & Optometry Team, will become the Collaborative Commissioning Hub supporting the 7 ICBs locally and will continue to be your primary point of contact. You can continue to contact us via england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net after 1 April 2023. |

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| [**Click here for the letter**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b35c71304a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| CPCS Referrals |

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| **Changes to how referrals to the Community Pharmacist Consultation service(CPCs) are received.****ONLY applicable to pharmacies who are using CPCS Solutions from Cegedim Healthcare, Positive Solutions or Sonar Informatics**The way Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) referrals are sent by the EMIS PharmRefer product is changing. From 28 March, community pharmacies that are using CPCS solutions from **Cegedim Healthcare, Positive Solutions or Sonar Informatics** will no longer be able to use PharmOutcomes to access their CPCS referrals. Referrals from GPs and the emergency departments or urgent treatment centre pilot sites using Pharmrefer will arrive into community **pharmacies’ NHS shared** mailbox accounts. If this applies to you, you must tell staff about the changes and update standard operating procedures to ensure NHS shared mailboxes are monitored and referrals are picked up. Community pharmacies using PharmOutcomes for their CPCS service will continue to receive referrals in their usual wayThe PharmRefer product is also being updated to allow the referrer to select any community pharmacy that is listed as offering CPCS in the Directory of Services. |

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| Discount Deduction |

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| **Changes to discount deduction arrangements from April**The Drug Tariff for April 2023 will contain changes to the discount deduction arrangements for pharmacy contractors, including changes which PSNC rejected, and are subsequently being imposed.The changes being implemented from 1st April include all concession lines to be considered as Group Items for Discount Not Deducted i.e. DND or zero discount (ZD) items, and the rate of discount deduction for generics to increase from 17.52% to 20%.[Read more about these changes](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f6900dcc90&e=3e5221b889) |

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| SSP for Progynova |

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| **SSP for Progynova® TS 100mcg/24hr patches**DHSC has issued a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Progynova® TS 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches. SSP052 provides that for every patch originally prescribed, one FemSeven® 100 patch can be supplied.[Read more about SSP052](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=544d6199cd&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Oral Anticoagulant Safety Audit |

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| **Community Pharmacy Oral Anticoagulant Safety Audit 2021/22 Key Findings**The community pharmacy oral anticoagulant safety audit was conducted as part of the 2021/2022 pharmacy quality scheme (PQS). Overall, 9,303 pharmacies participated in this audit and submitted data for 131,526 patients over a 7-month period between 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022.The key findings have now been published on NHS England’s website: [NHS England » Community pharmacy oral anticoagulant safety audit 2021/22](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5bba8d564c&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Interpretation & Translation Services |

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| **Interpretation and Translation Services**Interpretation and translation services are available for Community Pharmacies when treating NHS Patients. These services are commissioned and paid for by NHS England. To access the services commissioned for the following areas please follow the link [here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=19a5fde8d1&e=3e5221b889).* Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon, and Wiltshire (BSW)
* Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)
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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=5603d18531&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=a055d5897a&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.**Save Our Pharmacies posters on the way**As part of the joint #SaveOurPharmacies campaign, the national pharmacy bodies have arranged for an A2 window poster to be sent to community pharmacies.The striking window posters are being distributed to all community pharmacies in England in the latest editions of Pharmacy Magazine and P3pharmacy. Pharmacy Magazine's March edition will hit pharmacy doormats early next week (w/c 27th March), with P3pharmacy's April edition arriving mid-month.[Click here for a preview of the poster](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=728e558076&e=3e5221b889)[Read more and visit the Save Our Pharmacies website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b81341265a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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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=104e2c4c47&e=3e5221b889)Updated information on HRT pre-payment certificate |

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| HRT |

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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=d062cdd8ed&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=15e0a70a26&e=3e5221b889)
* [DHSC announces rollout of HRT prescription prepayment certificate](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=7aa45ad1ab&e=3e5221b889)
* [NHSBSA Information here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c0907302e2&e=3e5221b889)
* [FAQ Information](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=63f736ae7a&e=3e5221b889)

PSNC will start publishing supplementary guidance next week. |

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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=6641a63090&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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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=c7e68896bc&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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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=9ad3447631&e=3e5221b889)[.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=405751549d&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=91c7f5ac3d&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=55fd3574ec&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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