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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 17th October 2023 |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Myths & Facts Section - *new!* |

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| **MYTH**If a DMS for a patient has NO Changes on it I can’t do the 3 stages of the DMS service  |

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| **FACT**Yes you should still complete all 3 stages of the DMS service even if there are no changes  |

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| Clinical Examination Skills |

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| **Clinical Examination Skills Training for Community Pharmacists: face to face training** The Clinical Examination Skills Training for Community Pharmacists face to face sessions are now available for the South West in Bristol on **Friday 3rd November 2023 (session 6 – 9pm) and Saturday 4th November 2023 (session 10 – 1pm) at Engineer’s House Bristol.**These informal and interactive sessions are designed to allow hands on experience with clinical examination skills. It is important to work through the online material to get the most out of the event.Each training day will include workstations with focused skills, including: **Cardiology,Ear, Nose and Throat,Dermatology and Paediatrics**All workstations will be facilitated by Clinical Educators from the CliniSkills team.  You will have the opportunity to practice using diagnostic equipment and examination skills using training simulators and associate clinical educators (ACEs). ACEs are a team of lay people who are experts in training clinical skills. They will help you practice your skills on a ‘real’ person in a safe environment. The ACEs will work with you in medical bays and provide feedback for your learning and ongoing development.Each workstation will have case studies and quizzes to help you check your understanding and reflect on how you can apply your learning. For more information and to register for a place  please visit the [CliniSkills website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6dd47fef21&e=3e5221b889) We’re writing to let you know about an upcoming public consultation on our plans for future [drug and alcohol treatment services in Bristol](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=07ff6b220b&e=3e5221b889). |

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| Consultation Events - Bristol only |

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| **Bristol pharmacies ONLY** - **Consultation Events: Future Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services in Bristol.** Bristol Council are  seeking views on their draft plan, which sets their proposed commissioning intensions, from 30 October to 24 December (8 weeks). This plan, along with Easy Read version, survey, and background documents, will be published on [Ask Bristol Consultation and Engagement Hub](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=134a3a2b15&e=3e5221b889) shortly. In addition to the main survey, we’re organising targeted focus groups and interviews. Our goal is to make sure we hear from a wide variety of individuals, including those with diverse life experiences, and to reach out to historically underserved and marginalised communities. We’re also hosting consultation events which anyone can attend. Places are limited to 40 attendees for the in-person events. **Registration is now open for these so you can book in advance**.

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| **Date time**  | **Location**  | **Event registration link**  |
| Weds 1st Nov 2pm-4pm  | Filwood Community CentreSouth Bristol  | [https://forms.microsoft.com/e/vVPDUH3RQg](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=e4c1622817&e=3e5221b889)  |
| Thurs 2nd November 3pm-5pm  | Online  | [https://forms.microsoft.com/e/EB1XfgcCBh](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=e3f4316d11&e=3e5221b889)  |
| Thurs 9th November 2pm-4pm   | Easton Community CentreEast Central Bristol  | [https://forms.microsoft.com/e/1vhqK1XCUV](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=726424fcae&e=3e5221b889)  |
| Weds 22nd November 2pm-4pm   | Greenway CentreNorth Bristol  | [https://forms.microsoft.com/e/UG5KqNYfP9](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ef398e114f&e=3e5221b889)  |
| Thurs 23rd Nov 2pm-4pm  | Online(children and young People focus)  | [https://forms.microsoft.com/e/JpmYHAHYuL](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=1f1fb05309&e=3e5221b889)  |

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| Medicines containing Valproate |

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| **Full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines**Changes to the Human Medicines Regulations 2023 have from the 11th October, implemented new rules requiring pharmacists to dispense **all licensed medicines containing valproate in the manufacturer's original full pack.**Pharmacies must supply valproate products as complete packs and should not repackage them in plain dispensing packaging. However, exceptions can be made based on individual risk assessments, allowing pharmacists to supply valproate-containing medicines in different packaging as long as patient information leaflets are provided.Additionally, all licensed medicines containing valproate have been reclassified as special containers for reimbursement purposes, with pharmacies being automatically paid for the relevant number of complete packs. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has also released new guidance to support this change. [Read more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=44d3190ce9&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Hypertension Case-Finding Service |

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| **Hypertension Case-Finding Service: Commencement of PPV activity**From 9th October, the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Provider Assurance Team (PAT) will conduct post-payment verification (PPV) reviews of pharmacy owners offering the Hypertension Case-Finding Service. These reviews, commissioned by NHS England, will look particularly at pharmacies claiming for high volumes of blood pressure checks~~.~~.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=afbd8c7ae5&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| Check & Challenge |

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| **Check and challenge your disallowed items using MYS**Community Pharmacy England have identified some products that were incorrectly disallowed by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) due to operator errors or non-listing in the NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d). Two such products are Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops and Emulsifying ointment 500g~~.~~Pharmacies can challenge disallowed items via the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal, and if successful, reimbursement will be provided by the NHSBSA. The most common reasons for items being disallowed include drugs not being listed in the Drug Tariff, non-listed appliances, chemical reagents, and items prescribed by a Nurse Prescriber.[Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=feeba09ff9&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Reimbursement Prices |

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| **Reimbursement prices for Rosemont Pharmaceutical products**Pharmacy owners should be aware that certain Rosemont Pharmaceutical Ltd products dispensed in September 2023 will be reimbursed at prices higher than those published in the Drug Tariff. This is because the price change mechanism rules mean that a number of price changes will take effect for prescriptions dispensed in that same month.[See the list of updated reimbursement prices for September](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5fca523e9c&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Compliance Aids |

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| **Multi department compliance aids (Dosette Boxes)**Please can we remind pharmacists that they should complete an equality act assessment with patients to determine the most appropriate (if any adjustment) required to ensure the patient can take their medicines and not just refuse the patient because they are on/want a dosette box. The reasonable adjustment could be a MARR chart, large print labels etc and not necessarily a dosette box. If you require any support please contact Roger Herbert (Roger.avonlpc@gmail.com) or Judith Poulton (Judith.avonlpc@gmail.com) |

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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=6dd883c707&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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| Hydrogen Peroxide |

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| **Hydrogen Peroxide Cream for impetigo**We would like to remind all pharmacists that if the patient requires hydrogen peroxide cream (Crystacide) to treat their impetigo that you should enter it on PharmOutcomes in the same way as any medication given out under the local PGD scheme. Patients who are entitled to free prescriptions would get the product free and if they normally pay for a prescription charge will pay the normal levy fee. |

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| Information Required |

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| **Information required by North Bristol Trust (Southmead) pharmacy dept**The pharmacy team in NBT on many occasions need to contact the patients regular pharmacy to confirm current medication. The pharmacy team may send an e mail with either a request for the information or a request for someone ( it does not need necessarily need to be the pharmacist) from the pharmacy team to contact them so they can check the information they require. Please ensure you check your shared NHS email account regularly and respond in a timely manner to any requests for help from the Trust pharmacy team. |

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| Tresiba FlexTouch Cartridge |

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| **BNSSG Pharmacies only - Tresiba FlexTouch 100units/ml cartridge stock issues**As you may be aware in June 2023 a [tier 2 medicine supply notification (MSN)](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=9e45065ba4&e=3e5221b889) was issued advising Tresiba (insulin degludec) FlexTouch 100units/ml pens will be out of stock from August 2023 until January 2024.  Supply of Tresiba FlexTouch appears to be exhausted locally and so the ICB have asked local Clinicians to identify patients currently prescribed Tresiba FlexTouch as a matter of urgency and switch them to Tresiba Penfill® 100units/ml cartridges with a NovoPen 6® device - providing counselling and education about the new device. In order to ensure that patients can obtain supply of their insulin ongoing and avoid the risk of serious adverse events such as Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), Please direct patients back to their prescriber if your pharmacy hold any outstanding scripts for Tresiba FlexTouch 100 unit pens so that their insulin device can be switched in a timely fashion and you may want to consider stocking NovoPen 6 pen devices ready for this switch. |

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| Sexual Health Services - BNSSG only |

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| **BNSSG Pharmacy Sexual Health Services Annual Updating Session** The next **BNSSG Pharmacy Sexual Health Services Annual Updating Session** is on the evening of Thursday 16thNovember 2023.  This is a FREE online training event for community pharmacists currently providing, or seeking to provide, the sexual health services (including delivering EHC PGDs') across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. For more details and to register your interest please use the Eventbrite link,[click here.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=620c97b0f0&e=3e5221b889)This free event is organised by Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Unity Sexual Health.  |

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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.Please see below for details of the most recent training module  |

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| [**Click here for VirtualOutcomes**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8350f6b1ca&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| Finding a DMP or DPP |

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| **Independent Prescribing Course - finding a DMP or DPP**Before enrolling on an Independent Prescribing course, as you are aware pharmacists need to secure the support of a Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) or a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) to supervise their learning in practice and certify that they are competent to practise as an independent prescriber (IP). We are fully aware of the challenge this can be and we are doing all that we can to support you however we can only do so much and therefore each pharmacist who wants to embark on this path has a responsibility to also approach their local GP practices and PCN colleagues to ask whether they would be prepared to support you by taking on the role of DMP or DPP.Please remember that health professionals other than doctors or pharmacists can be DPPs, for example nurses, physiotherapists or paramedics, providing they have legal independent prescribing rights (an annotation or automatic right to prescribe). As a gesture of goodwill there is £1000 payment for the GP practice if they agree to become a DMP or the DPP. If you have any GP practices who are interested please can you get them to contact (or you contact) Lisa Fisher (Lisa.avonlpv@gmail.com) or Alison Mundell (Alison.Mundell@nhs.net) |

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| [**Click here for further information**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=705de1a60c&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Foundation Training 2025/26 |

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| **Getting ready for the Foundation Training Year 2025/26**If you are planning to recruit a foundation trainee pharmacist, this [main presentation](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=87150685a8&e=3e5221b889) and [summary](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=084b08b02c&e=3e5221b889) will give you the key information you need to prepare now.You can also watch a [narrated presentation](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8ef9e5553d&e=3e5221b889) and [**narrated summary**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=4983f5d212&e=3e5221b889) on the YouTube channel. Please contact england.traineepharmacist@nhs.net with any further questions.  |

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| Training |

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| **Learning Disability Training**There is training available to help the health and social care workforce ensure that they have the right skills and knowledge to provide safe, compassionate and informed care to autistic people and people with a learning disabilityThe training is named after Oliver McGowan. Oliver was a young man whose death shone a light on the need for health and social care staff to have better skills, knowledge and understanding of the needs for autistic people and people with a learning disability.The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is the government’s preferred and recommended training for health and social care staff.Please access [the training here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=2c16a8425a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Bath University – IP course next intake** We are writing to let you know that the applications for the next intakes of the our Independent Prescribing course are now open. These will begin in March and we are offering two options running side by side – one fully online and one hybrid. Much more information can be found on our [website](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6b8bc44c47&e=3e5221b889) but some key points which might be helpful to prospective applicants are summarised below: The application portal is now open and will close on 10th November (or before if we receive a large volume of applications) so if you are keen to secure a place please apply asap.    Do ensure your application is **complete**chasing your DPP/referees for forms as necessary as **only complete applications will be considered**.  We strongly encourage applicants to check on the application portal if their references are present.  We will review all applications in line with the selection criteria detailed below. 1.     Existing award students (see below)2.     Health Education England funded applicants in line with the requirements attached to this funding (regional considerations at the discretion of the funder, as applicable), including:* a. All application documents completed in full, all references and supplementary documents present and DPP form completed by the closing date
* b.  Date of application
* c. Training environment (DPP commitment to support in practice, description of specialism, plan for completion of mandatory clinical practice hours and identified clinical need/future role)
* d. Previous experience of postgraduate study

We would encourage applicants who could attend the university campus for 4 days during the course to apply for the hybrid version of the course. The remote course attracts applicants from all over the country and we are limited to 40 students for the remote version and 40 for the hybrid version. You will be notified of the decision of the University as soon as possible before the start of the course.  **Applicants are responsible for finding their own Designated Prescribing Practitioner.** |

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