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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 31st October 2023 |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Myths & Facts Section - *new!* |

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| **MYTH**All team members if they are trained can do a BP Clinic check as part of the Hypertension Case-Finding service |

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| **FACT**No, currently, the service can only be provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. |

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| Webinar - New pharmacy owners |

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| **Webinar for new pharmacy owners**The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), Community Pharmacy England, and NHS England (NHSE) are hosting a joint introductory webinar for new community pharmacy owners on **Tuesday, 31st October, from 7-8pm.**In this webinar, each organisation will provide an overview of their respective roles and what a new pharmacy owner can expect from them. Our Director of Member and LPC Support, James Wood, will be speaking about Community Pharmacy England.Whilst being targeted to new pharmacy owners, this webinar is open to anybody who feels they might have an interest.R[egister now](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=92864ba28d&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Pharmacy blood pressure check service |

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| **Pharmacy blood pressure check service finder tool for the public and patients** A new service finder on the NHS website (NHS.UK) allows healthcare professionals and patients to search for and [find a pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=50f596e8db&e=3e5221b889)The tool explains who is eligible to go to a pharmacy to get their blood pressure checked and can be searched using a postcode, with the nearest pharmacy listed first.Blood pressure conditions pages on the NHS website have also been updated to signpost to the blood pressure pharmacy finder. **All pharmacy contractors offering the service should ensure that their pharmacy profile on**[NHS Profile Manager](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a46d8b7119&e=3e5221b889)**is up to date and indicates that they provide the service.**This will ensure that all pharmacies which offer the service located nearest the postcode provided will be listed.  |

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| Lateral Flow Device |

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| **NEW Advanced Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Service launched form 6th November 2023**The service, which is funded outside of the CPCF global sum, will allow eligible patients who have [risk factors for progression to severe COVID-19](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=69504ec3b3&e=3e5221b889) to obtain LFD test kits from participating community pharmacies.Access to LFD test kits allows eligible patients to self-test if they have symptoms which suggest they may have COVID-19, with the potential for them to access treatment if the result is positive.A service fee of £4 + VAT will be paid for each completed transaction of the supply of one box of five COVID-19 LFD test kits and the cost of tests supplied will be paid according to arrangements set out in the November 2023 Drug Tariff.When ready to provide the service, pharmacy owners will be able to sign up on the NHSBSA’s MYS portal from 6th November 2023, after which they will be able to provide the service.More information is [available here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f5517889d2&e=3e5221b889) |

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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=f3e6e7a2ca&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=1e112fc2b3&e=3e5221b889). |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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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=ca79cddb67&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Mandatory Survey |

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| **2023 mandatory workforce survey open**The 2023 Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey, conducted by North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of NHS England, has started today. The survey will be open for eight weeks, closing on **December 17th, 2023.**All pharmacy owners are required to complete the survey. The NHS Business Service Authority (NHSBSA) has sent an email to pharmacy owners with a link to the survey. In some cases, head offices will complete the survey for multiple pharmacy groups.[Learn more about the survey and how to complete it](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=07e369cd6e&e=3e5221b889) |

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| CPAF Questionnaire |

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| **Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) - Full Questionnaire**All community pharmacies in England were asked to complete 10 screening questions for the NHS England Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF). Some pharmacies may also soon be selected to complete the full CPAF questionnaire.The full questionnaire will be available on the Manage Your Service (MYS) website from 6th November to midnight of 3rd December 2023. [Find out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=271e435a85&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=1197073d3c&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.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=04f30d1279&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| CPPE Programme |

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| **New CPPE programme - Preparing to train as an independent prescriber**If you have any pharmacists who have not been able to start their IP programme this autumn and are perhaps waiting until Jan/Mar 2024 or not ready yet, this would be a great place to signpost them to help them to be in a much better position when they do apply.This NHSE funded course is made up of four main components, including a self-directed e-course, a mandatory online workshop, and an optional online workshop and peer support sessions. The first cohort will launch on 12 September as an initial pilot cohort. Further cohorts will be released over the coming months. [Pharmacists can join the waiting list here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=2b65720798&e=3e5221b889):  (login required) and will then be notified when the programme is live for booking. Prior to the full launch please direct people to the landing page for further information about the programme, [click here.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=cad168902c&e=3e5221b889) The optional workshop is 'Academic writing and reflective practice'. Debbie from UWE is our expert writer for this workshop, and I am very pleased to be working with Debbie on the development of this component of the programme. |

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