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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 12th December 2023 |

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| Reminders - *new!* |

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| **LAST FEW DAYS TO COMPLETE MANDATORY WORKFORCE SURVEY. MUST BE COMPLETED BY 17th DEC. DETAILS BELOW** |

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| **NEW this week** |

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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=18fa7d4f36&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Pharmacy First Training |

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| **COMMUNITY PHARMACY AVON - HOLD THE DATE FOR TRAINING**Community Pharmacy Avon will be holding a F2F training evening to support all contractors on the Pharmacy First and Contraception Services.We will be offering two dates - Wednesday 24th Jan or Wednesday 31st Jan. Further information about the event and how to book your place will be available shortly. |

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| Contraception Service Finder |

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| **Pharmacy contraception service finder**The NHS website has a new service finder that allows both the public and healthcare professionals to search for pharmacies offering the contraceptive pill without a prescription.Pharmacy owners are advised to include this service in their [NHS Profile Manager](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=2c39723fb3&e=3e5221b889) to ensure its visibility.[Access the service finder](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b8cdd755ef&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Contraception Service Training |

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| **FREE VirtualOutcomes Training on the new CONTRACEPTION SERVICE**Community Pharmacy Avon fund online training for all pharmacy teams in our Area. This month's training is on the NHSE Contraception Service. The short modules will give the pharmacist and team an overview of the service and ideas on how to ankle it a success. There is also available a 10 min e learning module for GP practices which explains the service and how they can support it.Use your ODS (F CODE) to [access the training](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=faa336c406&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Pharmacy First  |

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| **Pharmacy First: Claim window now open for initial £2,000 fixed payment**Pharmacy owners who intend to provide the Pharmacy First service are now able to claim their initial £2,000 fixed payment.All pharmacy owners who want to provide the Pharmacy First service (including those already providing the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)) must declare their agreement to the terms and scope of the service on the NHS Business Services Authority [Manage Your Service (MYS)](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=225b85bea3&e=3e5221b889) portal by 31st January 2024. [Click here for more information](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=cca37c36ab&e=3e5221b889) |

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| CPE Resources for Pharmacy First |

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| **Community Pharmacy England(CPE) Resources for Pharmacy First**In preparation for the launch of the Pharmacy First service on 31st January  2024, CPE have developed an initial set of resources to assist pharmacy owners and their teams. These resources include checklists for [pharmacy owners](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b2dfdfc489&e=3e5221b889) and [pharmacists](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=b9e3ba01c7&e=3e5221b889) (including locums) outlining actions they can take to prepare for the service, plus a two-page [summary briefing](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=67d3508c09&e=3e5221b889) providing pharmacy teams with essential information about the service. We will continue to update our [Pharmacy First webpage](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=437e7225d4&e=3e5221b889) with FAQs and additional resources leading up to the service launch. |

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| CliniSkills |

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| **CliniSkills - FREE Training to help prepare pharmacists for Pharmacy First** *Prepare for*[*Pharmacy First*](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=aaa3931751&e=3e5221b889)*, with a fully funded, free to access clinical examination skills training resource from the NHS, designed specifically for community pharmacists.*Prepare for [**Pharmacy First**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=e5b180eb53&e=3e5221b889) and develop the skills you need to assess patients, treat common conditions, assess high-risk presentations, and to identify high risk red flag presentations. [More information](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5eb1f66e7f&e=3e5221b889)[Register here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a2ce87a261&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Pharmacy Supervision |

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| **Consultation on pharmacy supervision opens**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is consulting on proposals to update legislation around the supervision of activities by a pharmacist. The proposals would allow pharmacists to authorise pharmacy technicians to carry out the dispensing and supply of medicines and any pharmacy team member to distribute checked and bagged prescriptions in the absence of a pharmacist.The consultation period runs until 11.59pm on 29th February 2024.[Read more, including a statement from our Director of Legal](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a82bfa3bfe&e=3e5221b889) |

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| SSP Protocol |

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| **Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) updates*** SSP053 for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension has been [further extended](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=bb8e817809&e=3e5221b889)[to](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=33ebc4f4b2&e=3e5221b889)[**Friday 15th December 2023**](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6e53b2c443&e=3e5221b889)
* Esdrot 100mcg SSP has expired
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| PGDs |

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| **PGDS and Service specification for Pharmacy First**NHS England has published drafts of the 23 Patient Group Directions (PGDs) and one protocol for use by pharmacists to authorise supply of medicines at NHS expense, where clinically appropriate, as part of the Pharmacy First service: [Read more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=204f85f087&e=3e5221b889)The service specification is [available here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=ade5ec183c&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Contraception Service Expansion |

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| **Contraception service expansion** **from December 1st**The expansion of the Pharmacy Contraception Service enabling pharmacists to initiate oral contraception can begin from today: [Read more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=9cea4c121d&e=3e5221b889)The LPC would advise that pharmacists intending to deliver this service if they have not already done so consider starting their training ASAP. Please note that the only mandatory training is with regard to Safeguarding Level 3. There is other suggested training ( some of which is highly recommended ) listed in the [service specification](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=0a22f17ef4&e=3e5221b889).  |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| CPE Webinars |

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| **Webinars to support the NEW Pharmacy First Service and changes to contraceptive and hypertension case -finding service**Community Pharmacy England will be hosting a series of webinars in December and January to help pharmacy owners and their teams to prepare for the new Pharmacy First service, and changes to the Contraception and Hypertension Case-Finding Services.A list of webinar dates can be [found here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=64ce5d9ea0&e=3e5221b889) and to book a place [click here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=8ca67d563a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Valproate |

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| **National Patient Safety Alert: Valproate**The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is asking healthcare organisations, including community pharmacies, to put a plan in place to implement new regulatory measures for sodium valproate, valproic acid and valproate semisodium (valproate). This follows a comprehensive review of safety data, advice from the Commission on Human Medicines and an expert group, and liaison with clinicians and organisations.[Learn More](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=6c8e8e8ce6&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=89d8fe0d6f&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Local Services & Information** |

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| AccuRx |

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| **Please do NOT reply to AccuRx /NHS mail messages from GP practices** The LPC have had a feedback from a number of GP practices that pharmacists are replying to the NHS e mail or AccuRX message that contains a CPCS referral. Please can I remind all pharmacist NOT to do this unless it has previously been agreed with the GP practice. In a lot of cases the referral has come from the Care navigator/reception team members personal account and that team member may be part time/on holiday etc meaning that any messages from then pharmacist to the practice about a patient may not be actioned in a timely manner. If you have any questions please contact Judith.avonlpc@gmail.com |

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| UHB Communication |

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| **Communication between UHB (Bristol) Pharmacists and Community Pharmacy**The LPC has been working closely with the pharmacy team in UHB and they have asked us for a second route to communicate with community pharmacy teams in AVON. On occasions the UHB pharmacy team needs to contact a patients nominated community pharmacy to discuss their medication. In the first instant they will try and contact you by phone but failing this they may send an e mail to your shared NHS  pharmacy e mail. As part of their medicines reconciliation process they need to get patients medication verified by two sources one of which may be the community pharmacy. Please can you ensure all team members are aware that if they see e mails from any pharmacy departments in local hospitals to reply as soon as you can as this will help with the care of the patient. |

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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=f16e665c48&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| CPPE - Accuracy Checking |

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| **CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician programme – more free places available**NHS England has provided an additional funding for the CPPE to offer the Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT) programme to an additional 40 pharmacy technicians.This programme is a 3-12 month training and development opportunity designed to support and assess pharmacy technicians in performing the final accuracy check of dispensed items on prescriptions. Due to the high level of interest, interested pharmacy technicians are encouraged to apply as soon as bookings open.[C](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=48ff90bc90&e=3e5221b889)[heck the opening dates for](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f4dc9a948e&e=3e5221b889)[booking](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=937328dfcb&e=3e5221b889) |

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