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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 19th December 2023 |

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| Welcome to the Christmas/New Year edition of the Newsletter.Seasons Greetings from all of us at Community Pharmacy Avon |

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| **NEW this week** |

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| Opt In - Contraception Service |

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| **Opt-in for Pharmacy Contraception Services**Pharmacies who prior to 1st December 2023 had signed up to deliver the Pharmacy Contraception Service (previously described as the Tier 1 service) will once they are ready to provide the expanded service (i.e. initiation and repeat supply), need to opt-in by making a declaration on MYS. This opt-in must be undertaken by 29th February 2024. Any pharmacies providing the Tier 1 service who do not opt-in by that date will be automatically deregistered from the service (and they will be informed of this by the NHSBSA). |

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| Use of Video Links |

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| **Use of Video Links to deliver remote consultation as part of the Pharmacy First Service**Pharmacies, including DSPs, must carry out remote consultations by video consultation, rather than by phone because the conditions covered by the clinical pathways will often require the pharmacist to examine the patient (e.g. a rash) or examine a sample of urine, in the case of the UTI pathway. The service specification requires a live video link of sufficient quality to be used to carry out an examination, as part of the consultation.The requirement to use video consultation **only applies to clinical pathway consultations ie PGD's**; pharmacies can continue to use the telephone for remote consultations for the urgent supply of medicines and minor illness consultations.**The LPC suggests that pharmacy contractors start to consider what video links they might use .**[More guidance](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=7a913fe27d&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Otoscopes |

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| **Equipment for Pharmacy First - Otoscopes**Where ear examinations are performed within the pharmacy, the pharmacist must use an otoscope. Consequently, all pharmacies providing the service (bar DSPs) must have an otoscope.Guidance on selecting a suitable otoscope can be found in Annex C of the [service specification](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=37ed366361&e=3e5221b889). **Please consider ordering your otoscope asap if you have not already got one** |

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| Emergency Contraception |

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| **IMPORTANT - Guidance on Emergency Contraceptive for Transgender and Non-Binary People**Across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire we have been made aware that **transgender men have been turned away** from pharmacies when seeking Emergency Contraception.We want to ensure that access to Emergency Contraception via BNSSG Pharmacies is inclusive for transgender and non-binary people with no assumptions made based on gender presentation. We are reminding all pharmacists of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) 2017 statement on [Contraceptive Choices and Sexual Health for Transgender and Non-Binary People](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f6b12fcf35&e=3e5221b889)**.** The statement provides guidance on emergency contraceptive choices **for transgender and non-binary people and their partners, who are engaging in vaginal sex** where there is a risk of pregnancy and explains that **trans men and non-binary (assigned female) people who do not wish to become pregnant should be offered emergency contraception (EC)** after unprotected vaginal intercourse or if their regular contraception has been compromised or used incorrectly.If you have not already seen this statement we hope it will provide helpful information to support relevant consultations, advice and guidance. The statement also offers general sexual health advice for these groups of people.   |

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| LFD Service |

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| **LFD service: Provider Assurance activity begins**The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Provider Assurance Team will soon begin to conduct provider assurance work with pharmacy owners offering the Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) test supply service. These reviews, commissioned by NHS England, will involve pharmacies who have either appeared to have made an unexpectedly high number of claims or are registered to provide the service but have not updated their NHS profiles accordingly.Community Pharmacy England encourages any pharmacy owners who are selected, to engage fully with the NHSBSA during the process.  F[ind out more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a7ff0347fe&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Antiviral Medicines - Influenza |

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| **DHSC permits use of antiviral medicines against influenza**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has advised that, due to increasing flu levels in the community, prescribers in primary care can now prescribe antiviral medicines (oseltamivir and zanamivir) for flu prophylaxis and treatment. Subsequently, community pharmacists may also now supply these medicines at NHS expense.This is in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance and the Selected List Scheme (SLS). Prescriptions for these products must be endorsed SLS by the prescriber. [Learn more](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=865bd34b5a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Clarithromycin |

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| **Extension to SSP053 Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension**DHSC has announced an extension to the expiry date of the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension (SSP053). Due to the ongoing supply situation, this SSP has now been further extended to **Friday 12th January 2024.** |

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| Pharmacy First Training |

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| **Community Pharmacy Avon - Pharmacy First Training**Community Pharmacy Avon are holding a F2F training evening to support all contractors on the Pharmacy First and Contraception Services. Wednesday 24th January 2024 – Somerdale Pavillion, Keynsham.Wednesday 31st January 2024 – Engineers House, Clifton.[Click here to book a place](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=01fea73feb&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=bf054c8494&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Pharmacy First Claim Window now Open |

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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=529295a65f&e=3e5221b889) portal by 31st January 2024. [Click here for more information](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=12719144ea&e=3e5221b889) |

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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=09e3fdaf45&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=23a8cdf6ce&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=0dd7eae7e1&e=3e5221b889)[Register here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c5a2145e9a&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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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=98800ed063&e=3e5221b889) and [pharmacists](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=595c50e8e8&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=264ecff0a4&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=0f662984a0&e=3e5221b889) with FAQs and additional resources leading up to the service launch. |

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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=d0760cdc5d&e=3e5221b889) |

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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=66d2ad5d39&e=3e5221b889)The service specification is [available here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=bdca4b3989&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=0f6d202d02&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=7d807632c1&e=3e5221b889).  |

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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=2671c5c8d6&e=3e5221b889) and to book a place [click here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=0ea339fd63&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=92672ffba0&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=3d3339b338&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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