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| **Weekly Update**Tuesday 5th December 2023 |

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| Reminders - *new!* |

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| **Please ensure you complete the Mandatory Workforce survey before December 17th - more information below** |

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| **NEW this week** |

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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=d2012e8369&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=20900955c2&e=3e5221b889) and to book a place [click here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=d0b6a723cb&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=03de74a365&e=3e5221b889)The service specification is [available here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=c4d8b6ac23&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=8bdbbdc7d2&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=0babd18c14&e=3e5221b889).  |

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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=bf90dff670&e=3e5221b889)[heck the opening dates for](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=492c90ed97&e=3e5221b889)[booking](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=fc2374b985&e=3e5221b889) |

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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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| **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework** |

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| Contraception Service |

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| **Pharmacy Contraception Service updated spec and PGDs**The [updated specification and Patient Group Directions (PGDs)](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=cb6f208503&e=3e5221b889) for the Pharmacy Contraception Service, following last week's [announcement](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=159db0dd8b&e=3e5221b889) that the service will be expanded from **1st December 2023.**This expanded service will enable pharmacists to **initiate oral contraception,** as well as **continuing to provide ongoing management of oral contraception** that was initiated in general practice or a sexual health clinic (or equivalent). To assist pharmacy owners and their teams, Community Pharmacy England have updated the [service page](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=20deef9f6c&e=3e5221b889)on their website to reflect the changes and update their resources. There will also be webinars for pharmacy owners on making the changes to start initiation of contraception or starting to offer this service and details of these will be announced soonThe LPC will be supporting the roll out of the service across AVON and we already have a list of 20 practices who are interested in working with their local pharmacies. We will also be contacting and working with the local sexual health services.We would recommend that  your pharmacists starts looking at the **training requirements asap** - please note that there are additional training requirements have been added to support initiation of contraception. |

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| Hypertension Case Finding Service |

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| **Hypertension Case finding Service Updated Service specification**An updated [Service Specification](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=fedd75523f&e=3e5221b889) has been issued for this service. Please ensure that all team members are aware of this. The main points to note are that the service can now be provided by suitable trained and competent pharmacy staff ie pharmacists, Pharmacy technicians **and other non-registered members of the pharmacy team.**Please also note that your pharmacy **MUST** ensure they have both a blood pressure monitor and an ABPM device that meets the requirements stated in the service spec. |

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| Hypertension Case Finding Template |

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| **Hypertension Case Finding Template on PharmOutcomes** Please note the message that Pinnacle Support sent out to all pharmacies on 10th November concerning Hypertension Service Claims - NHSBSA Claims in MYS.Please be aware that the fields in the **Hypertension Case Finding templates** that ask for ODS codes and case reference numbers have been **configured so they can be left blank**If you **do not know** the ODS codes for referral sites or referred to sites it is important that you leave these fields **blank**. You will be able to save your records and the BSA claim will send if the fields are left blank.Do not enter anything into the fields if you do not have the ODS code or reference. Entry of any narrative will cause a claim failure.For more information please see the message on PharmOutcomes  |

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| FAQ - Hypertension |

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| **PharmOutcomes Hypertension Case-Finding Service FAQ**PharmaOutcomes have issued a helpful document that answers FAQ’s. Please [click here for the document](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=5927b3cf5e&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=9f479864d6&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=c52ba53f0e&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=49fa46afc2&e=3e5221b889) |

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| **Training** |

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| Clinical Examination Skills Training |

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| **Sign up today for clinical examination skills training for community pharmacists**Community pharmacy teams can now sign up for one or more Clinical Examination Skills modules including ENT, paediatrics, cardiology and dermatology.Pharmacy owners and their teams are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this fully funded training programme which will be provided by CliniSkillsTM. It offers a combination of e-learning and in-person training, aimed at enhancing pharmacists' knowledge and skills in managing different symptoms and supporting pharmacy services.[Register here](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=80076ee81e&e=3e5221b889) |

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| Inhaler Techniques Workshop |

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| **CPPE Inhaler technique workshop, Bristol, 6th February 2024****CPPE is running an**[*Optimising inhaler technique: improving outcomes* workshop](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=3d58e212e3&e=3e5221b889) **on** Tuesday 6th February 2024 from 7:30 -9:30pm at Bristol Aerospace Welfare Association, Southmead Rd, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG (a buffet will be served from 6:45pm).**Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023-24****NB. This workshop and its associated e-assessment are one of the options to meet the required inhaler technique training within the Respiratory domain of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023-24.**This workshop is a practical session where you will have the opportunity to familiarise yourself with a variety of inhaler devices.**Audience:** Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and foundation trainee pharmacists working in any setting of practice.This workshop will include:* Demonstration of all the steps to successfully administer an inhaled dose from all the inhalers used in your practice.
* Effective assessment and correcting people’s inhaler technique.

For full details of the workshop please visit the [**CPPE website**.](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=f2831c1012&e=3e5221b889)**Places are limited so please**[book your place now](https://avonlpc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c41af9cdb2c8602a37b9d52d&id=a8cd6cc9fc&e=3e5221b889)**!**  |

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