

[View this email in your browser](#)

21st March 2023



**This LPC newsletter is for community pharmacy contractors, managers and team members in Surrey and Sussex. It contains local information and local news items, local diary dates and other local topics to help effectively manage NHS and locally commissioned contracts.**

Visit our [Newsletter page](#) for an archive of previous issues.  
[Sign up to PSNC](#) to receive nationally significant news and guidance on national contracts.

## LPC News

### **Save Our Pharmacies Petition**

CPSS is supporting the Save Our Pharmacies petition. Have you signed the petition yet? [#SaveOurPharmacies – We need your help to save pharmacies in England](#)

A [Save Our Pharmacies](#) campaign website has also been created by leading national pharmacy bodies, to give new focus to calls for fair pharmacy funding in England.

It is the latest output of a [joint programme of work](#) being coordinated by PSNC, CCA, AIM and the NPA. A resource in the form of a window poster is being printed and will shortly be mailed out to all community pharmacies in England.

---

### **HRT Prepayment Certificates available 1st April**

Communications have gone out across the NHS Sussex regarding HRT Prepayment certificates as below.

From 1st April 2023, patients in England will be able to access cheaper hormone replacement therapy (HRT) prescriptions for menopause by purchasing an annual HRT prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) for the cost of two single prescription charges. Here are the key points of the HRT PPC:

- The HRT PPC is valid for 12 months and can be used against any listed HRT prescription item(s) licensed for the treatment of menopause. (Note any unlicensed medication used for HRT is not included in the HRT PPC).
- However, a patient with a HRT PPC will continue to pay the prescription charge for any other (non-HRT) medicines, unless another exemption reason applies.
- The NHS prescription prepayment certificate covers ALL NHS prescriptions for a set price. That could be a better option to patients who are prescribed other medicines in addition to the HRT item. Full details can be found under this [link](#).
- **GPs will be required to prescribe licensed HRT items on SEPARATE prescriptions to patients with a HRT PPC.** Otherwise, a mixed prescription (both a HRT item and another medicine being prescribed on the same prescription) cannot be processed as both 'exempt' and 'paid' within the NHS prescription processing and pricing systems.
- With a mixed prescription, according to the patients choice the pharmacy may dispense one item on the prescription and the patient will then need to return to the GP for a separate prescription for the remaining item or the patient will return to the GP for both items and request two separate prescriptions.
- Additional information regarding the HRT PPC can be found under this [link](#).

## Newsletters

To read the latest edition of the NHSE Primary Care Bulletin click [here](#).

Additionally you might be interested in.....

### **Surrey Heartlands - Discontinuation of Starch Based Thickeners**

Two starch-based thickener products, **Nutilis Powder®** and **Resource ThickenUp®**, are being discontinued as of March 2023. There may be some residual stock in wholesaler depots, but no further stock will be available when this runs out.

Starch based thickeners are not the preferred products in Surrey Heartlands. There are two preferred thickener products in Surrey Heartlands: **Nutilis Clear®** and **Resource ThickenUp Clear®**. Both are clear, gum-based thickeners and are more palatable and stable than starch-based thickeners, are enzyme resistant and do not change the appearance of clear fluids. The Guide to Prescribing Thickeners for Dysphagia in Adults can be found [here](#).

If patients present at community pharmacy requesting a prescription of **Nutilis Powder®** or **Resource ThickenUp®** please direct them to their GP for a clinical review.

[View news archive](#)

**Support | Develop | Promote**

Our mailing address is [LPC@communitypharmacys.co.uk](mailto:LPC@communitypharmacys.co.uk)

*Copyright © 2021 All rights reserved.*

**Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex**

on behalf of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committees