



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 CPE to receive nationally significant news and guidance on national contracts.

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Reminder COVID-19 vaccination service procurement: re-opening of the Site Sign-up Process for contractors not already providing the service

Pharmacy Contractors who wish to deliver the COVID-19 Vaccination Service from their pharmacy premises from 1 April 2025 are now invited to submit a response through the [NHSBSA webpage](#).

Please note that community pharmacies with existing contracts do not need to re-apply as these extend to 31 March 2026.

Any contractor who wishes to participate should read the guidance (which outlines key deadlines and processes) and contractual agreements available on the [NHS England website](#). Responses are due by **11.59pm on 19 November 2024**.



Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2024

Reminder of the requirement to complete the 2024 workforce survey, which is a **mandatory requirement**. The NHS Business Services Authority sent an email to pharmacy contractors containing a link to the survey in October.

In some cases, for example, if you work for a multiple pharmacy group, the survey

may be completed centrally. If you are not sure whether the survey should be completed at pharmacy level or by your head office team, please ask your head office team for guidance.

The survey will close at midnight on Wednesday 11th December 2024.

[Read more about the survey and how to complete it.](#)

Local Services



Brighton & Hove Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) questionnaire for contractors

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Brighton and Hove HWB – Pharmacy Survey

The Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Board has delegated responsibility for the revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) to Brighton and Hove Council. The new PNA is currently being drafted for publishing by October 2025. To support the drafting of the PNA the pharmacy contractor survey has now been sent out to all pharmacies in the area via your pharmacy NHS email and is also available on the link below.

CPSS negotiated for the number of questions sent out to pharmacies to be significantly reduced compared to previous years due to the current workload. Please note there are now only a few questions, and it will now take less than 5 minutes to complete. Your support with this is appreciated.

To access the survey click [here](#) **before 30th December 2024.**



Sussex Pharmacy Technician Network

Sussex ICS Medicine Optimisation team are planning to create a Sussex Pharmacy Technician Network to build engagement for pharmacy technicians within Sussex and provide a platform for collaboration and networking within the profession locally.

To enable them to get a better understanding of what pharmacy technicians would like from this network, could you please complete the questionnaire on the link below. It will only take 5-10 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

The data will help the team to understand what you would like to gain from the Sussex Pharmacy Technician Network. The data will be collated and proposals outlined initially to the Sussex ICS Integrated Pharmacy Medicines Optimisation Workforce Steering Group. They will then contact all pharmacy technicians within Sussex to invite you to join the network and outline the purpose and the plan moving forward.

The survey which can be found [here](#) will close on **Monday 25th November 2024**.

Thank you for your support. For further information on the survey please contact:

Paula Parker (Senior Manager for Medicines Safety, Quality & Workforce, NHS Sussex ICB) via paula.parker1@nhs.net, or Zenobia Dzisiewska-Smith (Lead Pharmacy Technician, NHS Sussex ICB) via zenobia.dzisiewska-smith@nhs.net.

Training



World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week Webinars 2024: 18-24 November 2024

The theme for the [World AMR Awareness Week \(WAAW\) 2024](#) is “Educate. Advocate. Act now” and is a call to the global community to educate stakeholders on AMR, advocate for bold commitments and take concrete actions to confront AMR. For WAAW 2024, NHS England’s AMR Programme team will be delivering a series of daily educational webinars with experts covering a range of topics of interest to both Primary and Secondary Care audiences.

For further information and to register go to: [World AMR Awareness Week 2024 | NHS England Events](#).

Newsletters

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



Additionally you may be interested in.....



Sleep support

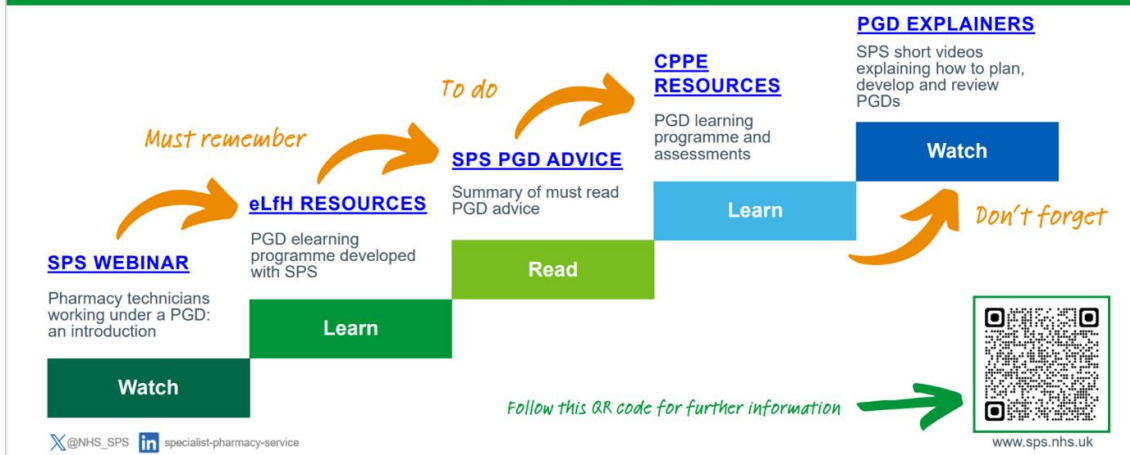
Free online resource to help patients sleep better in Sussex

A new publicly accessible free online resource has been developed in Sussex to help patients of all ages improve their sleep quality without relying on medication. This user-friendly intranet page provides a comprehensive suite of non-pharmacological strategies, including sleep hygiene tips, relaxation techniques, and lifestyle modifications.

While medications may be appropriate for short-term use in specific cases, long-term reliance on sleep medications can lead to serious side-effects and dependence. Non-pharmacological interventions offer a safer and more sustainable approach to improving sleep quality. This resource is suitable for individuals of all ages, from infants and adolescents to adults. It provides practical advice and evidence-based techniques to address various sleep issues, such as difficulty falling asleep, frequent awakenings, and poor sleep quality.

By directing your patients to this resource, you can empower them to take control of their own sleep health and experience the benefits of better sleep without medications. The page can be accessed here: [Sleep Support](#).

Pharmacy Technicians and Patient Group Directions: where do we start?



Pharmacy Technicians and Patient Group Directions

To support Pharmacy Technicians with using Patient Group Directions the Specialist Pharmacy Service has developed an NHS infographic with links to training resources. Available [here](#).



Help shape the new Equality, Diversity and Improvement (EDI) Plan for primary care

At the request of colleagues to host an evening session, NHS England have scheduled one final opportunity for colleagues from primary care, in clinical and non-clinical roles, to help shape the new EDI Improvement Plan for primary care. This session, being hosted outside core hours, will be your opportunity to discuss the programme underway, and contribute to this work, share reflections and help co-design and shape this new national resource. You can book a space on this

evening session below:

[27 November 2024, 7.00pm-8.30pm.](#)



Enoxaparin Brand switch at Ashford and St Peters Hospital

Ashford & St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (ASPH) are changing the brand of enoxaparin prescribed at the Trust from Clexane® to the biosimilar product Inhixa®. There is no difference in dosing or licensing between Inhixa® and Clexane®. Biosimilars (e.g. Inhixa®) are considered interchangeable with their reference product (i.e. Clexane®), however, as per MHRA advice, prescribing should be by brand name as this supports pharmacovigilance and continuity of supply for the patient.

There are limited indications for which enoxaparin is prescribed in primary care but community pharmacies in the area may now see occasional prescriptions for Inhixa.



Awareness of Colchicine Toxicity

A recent Sussex coroner's report reviewed the case of a 35-year-old patient, whose death was linked to colchicine toxicity. The case illustrates the risk of serious and fatal toxicity in overdose.

The licensed dose for treatment of acute gout states: No more than 6 mg should be taken as a course of treatment; after completion of a course, another course should not be started for at least three days.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published a [safety alert](#) in 2009, which recommends:

- Colchicine has a narrow therapeutic window and is extremely toxic in overdose.
- Patients at particular risk of toxicity are those with renal or hepatic impairment, gastrointestinal or cardiac disease, and patients at extremes of age.
- The symptoms of overdose are often delayed.
- All patients, even in the absence of early symptoms, should be referred for immediate medical assessment.

Early features of toxicity include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhoea.

Where possible check patients understand the correct use of colchicine, including when to stop treatment, total dose per course, and when the course can be repeated. Patients should be advised to stop treatment and seek urgent medical attention if signs or symptoms of toxicity occur.

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