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Newsletter

05/02/2025

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.

### Quick Glance In This Edition:

- \* Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2025: Please share your views
- \* Community Pharmacy Primary Care Network engagement lead for Surrey Heath PCN in Frimley ICB
- \* Pharmacy First Referrals from NHS 111- feedback survey for the South East Region
- \* Brighton and Hove pharmacies – opportunity to participate in a pilot website launch
- \* Recruitment of Trainee Pharmacists for 2026-2027 Oriel support webinar
- \* Webinar to showcase the variety of apprenticeships available to those considering pharmacy as a career 12th February 6.30pm to 7.30pm
- \* Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) - Pharmacy First Podcasts
- \* CPPE NHS Pharmacy First: Clinical Assessment
- \* Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group – Oral Liquid Medicines survey

## LPC News



### **Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2025: Please share your views**

Community Pharmacy England has launched its fourth annual Pressures Survey, and CPSS is asking pharmacy owners and staff to share their views. This important annual survey provides crucial evidence to monitor and quantify the intolerable challenges facing the community pharmacy sector. Results from the survey are used to raise awareness in the national media and Parliament, and to demonstrate the impact of the crisis in community pharmacy. The data may also be used by CPSS to respond to media queries and in conversations with local MPs.

CPSS is focused on supporting national efforts to raise awareness of critical pressures facing community pharmacy. Taking part in the Pressures Survey will help to support this.

### **Survey Information**

The survey consists of two separate surveys: one for pharmacy business owners/head office representatives and the other specifically for pharmacy teams. Expected to take around 10–15 minutes to complete, both surveys will remain open until **23:59 on 28th February 2025**.

For more information and to **complete either of two separate surveys, visit the [Community Pharmacy England website](#)**.

Community Pharmacy England has asked us to extend their thanks for your

continued support in completing these surveys during this busy time. They have confirmed that the data collected will be used directly in discussions with policymakers as they advocate for support and sustained core investment for community pharmacies.

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## Local Services



Expression  
of Interest

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### **Community Pharmacy Primary Care Network engagement lead for Surrey Heath PCN in Frimley ICB**

There is a unique opportunity for one community pharmacy professional (Note: you do not need to be a registered pharmacist or pharmacy technician to do this role) to work with Frimley ICB community pharmacy integration team as a Community Pharmacy Primary Care Network engagement lead.

The community pharmacy primary care network (PCN) engagement lead role has been established to support the local implementation of the pharmacy [Primary Care Access Recovery Plan \(PCARP\) requirements](#), including implementing the Pharmacy First Service and expanding the Blood Pressure Checks Service and Pharmacy Contraception Service.

The role will help develop channels of engagement between community pharmacy and PCNs and build partnership that supports integrated clinical pathways for patients. The Community Pharmacy PCN engagement lead role is being funded by

NHS England until 31 March 2025, however we are working with Frimley ICB to hopefully continue funding this role beyond March 2025. The expectation is that the role will function as a point of contact for local community pharmacies and for general practices in Surrey Heath PCN.

Community Pharmacy leads will be expected to carry out their role on one day per calendar month with a payment of **£400 per day**.

**This is an expression of interest ONLY. Please complete the MS form to submit your expression of interest in this role by 10th February. Use the link [here](#) or use the QR code to access the MS form:**



**Information needed:** Your name/ Job title / employer/ Email /Other contact. Please also submit a short supporting statement (no more than 250 words) **'why do you want to be a Community Pharmacy Primary Care Network engagement lead and what skills and experience can you bring to this role'**.

There will be a selection criteria where needed and interviews for this post. If you would like to arrange an informal talk about the role, please feel free to reach out to me at [Yinka.kuye1@nhs.net](mailto:Yinka.kuye1@nhs.net).

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**NHS**

**South East Coast  
Ambulance Service**  
NHS Foundation Trust

### **Pharmacy First Referrals from NHS 111- feedback survey for the South East Region**

CPSS are working closely with NHS111 to ensure community pharmacies receive appropriate referrals and patients access the healthcare service most appropriate for them. South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust (SECAMB) are looking for feedback on how they may improve the referral pathway for patients referred to community pharmacies from NHS 111- we want to work together to make sure this service is as successful as possible in the South East!

To complete the survey, scan the QR code or click [here](#).



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## Newsletters

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



To read the latest edition of the Frimley ICB Prescribing Newsletter click [here](#).

To read the latest edition of Surrey Heartlands ICB Medicines Safety Matters click [here](#).

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Additionally you may be interested in.....



### **Brighton and Hove pharmacies – opportunity to participate in a pilot website launch**

Please see below a free opportunity to be part of a pilot for a new website to advertise the services available at your pharmacy. Participation is free for the 6 months that the Brighton & Hove pilot will operate. If you are part of a multiple, please discuss with your Head Office.

### **New pilot available**

Vital Care Links Ltd is committed to helping individuals find local community pharmacy services. Our mission is to become the user-preferred provider of pharmacy-related service information in the UK.

Whether or not you currently have a functional website, **Book a Pharmacy** is here to support you in enhancing your online presence through our platform and driving footfall to your pharmacy. You may already be listed with other providers, so what

sets us apart?

We have a comprehensive marketing and advertising strategy that brings together various organisations with the goal of raising awareness and placing Community Pharmacy at the forefront of people's minds.

By promoting our platform, and in turn, your pharmacy, we aim to increase the visibility of community pharmacies and highlight the range of NHS, private and locally commissioned services on offer. Take a moment to explore our platform – your pharmacy is already listed here: <https://book-a-pharmacy.vitalcarelinks.co.uk>. By signing up, you'll have the opportunity to build and strengthen your pharmacy's online profile, which is accessible to everyone across England, Scotland and Wales.

This pilot is completely free and its currently open to pharmacies in Brighton and Hove. It will run for six months. After this period, pilot pharmacies will have the option to continue for an additional period or opt out. Of course, if you are interested but based elsewhere, please do get in touch to discuss options available to you.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or to register your interest:

[Melandi.vandenberg@vitalcarelinks.co.uk](mailto:Melandi.vandenberg@vitalcarelinks.co.uk).

For more details, please visit: <https://vitalcarelinks.co.uk>.



## **Recruitment of Trainee Pharmacists for 2026-2027 Oriel support webinar**

The webinar provided information for employers to support the recruitment of trainee pharmacists via Oriel for 2026-2027. For those contractors unable to join, please see below the recorded link.

[Recruitment of Trainee Pharmacists 2026-2027 via Oriel Webinar by SE Pharmacy Workforce Leads - YouTube.](#)

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## **Webinar to showcase the variety of apprenticeships available to those considering pharmacy as a career 12th February 6.30pm to 7.30pm.**

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, the NHS England, Workforce, Education & Training South East Pharmacy Technician team will be hosting a webinar to showcase the variety of apprenticeships available to those considering pharmacy as a career.

They will be highlighting the role of pharmacy support staff, trainee pharmacy technicians, science manufacturing process operatives and science manufacturing technicians and their associated apprenticeships.

The event will be held on “Apprentice Wednesday” - **Wednesday 12th February, 6.30 - 7.30pm**. No need to pre-register – the joining link can be found in the flyer found [here](#).

The target audience is school and college students, parents, carers, career leads/teachers and even those looking to change careers. Young people can't be what they can't see!



## **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) - Pharmacy First Podcasts**

SPS have produced podcasts on a number of Pharmacy First conditions, please see links below. In them Kieran Reynolds talks to Dr Stephanie Gallard and Liz Kramer about some of the clinical issues you may encounter when providing the impetigo, shingles or infected insect bites services under Pharmacy First.

### **Pharmacy First: Impetigo** (Published 21 January 2025)

Discussion includes how patients with impetigo usually present, differential diagnoses, advice to prevent the spread of impetigo and information about how what to when first line treatments are out of stock, including information about the SPS Medicines Supply Tool.

### **Pharmacy First: Shingles** (Published 21 January 2025)

Discussion includes the link between chickenpox and shingles, typical presentation of shingles, dermatomal distribution of shingles and how to respond to requests for video consultations.

### **Pharmacy First: Infected Insect Bites** (Published 21 January 2025)

Discussion includes how to differentiate between infected and non-infected insect bites, advice to give patients to prevent insect bites from becoming infected and how patients with insect borne diseases may present.

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### **CPPE NHS Pharmacy First: Clinical Assessment**

CPPE have limited spaces left on their [NHS Pharmacy First: Clinical assessment – essential skills online workshops](#), where you can learn alongside other pharmacists with the benefit of a **GP medical practitioner** expert sharing their expertise to work through case studies, to help you apply your knowledge and further your skills.

Secure your place to learn in the comfort of your own environment on either **Sunday 9th February or Sunday 16th March 9:30am – 1:30pm** [here](#).

The aim of this learning programme is to support pharmacy professionals to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to undertake effective consultations, communications and clinical assessments in order to provide the NHS Pharmacy First Service. This learning is currently only open for pharmacists and trainee pharmacists.

If you have any queries regarding booking, please contact the lead tutor:  
[tanya.gray@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.gray@cppe.ac.uk) or [info@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:info@cppe.ac.uk).

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## **Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group – Oral Liquid Medicines survey**

The Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group (CPPSG), hosted by the CCA, is made up of the 16 largest community pharmacy organisations, as well as the Independent Pharmacies Association (IPA), National Pharmacy Association (NPA) and Numark - (for more details on the CPPSG please visit <https://pharmacysafety.org/>).

The CPPSG are currently supporting the work of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), in collaboration with the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG). NHS England tasked these two organisations (RCPCH and NPPG) with improving dispensing practices for liquid medicines to help improve medication safety. The goal is to build a cross-sector system of best practices (including the best way to communicate liquid dosing). To ensure community pharmacies are represented in this work, the CPPSG has helped to create a survey for community pharmacy staff involved in dispensing oral liquid medicines.

Please support by completing the survey which can be found here - [Dispensing Practices of Oral Liquid Medicines](#).

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**Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex**

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