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Newsletter

30/04/2025

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:

- * Community Pharmacy leaflet and poster to promote services to the public in Brighton
- * Reminder NMS claim changes
- * Important guidance documents for people in Police Custody who require supervised Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST)
- * For Frimley ICB pharmacists only - We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity as part of Frimley ICB's plans to launch a local "Teach and Treat" programme.
- * For Frimley ICB Pharmacists only – opportunity to complete a Certificate in Advanced History Taking and Clinical Assessment
- * Aspiration Payment
- * Sussex ICB – Methotrexate 10mg position statement for all healthcare providers

- * Virtual meeting: Prescribing the contraceptive pill Date: 13th May 2025 Time: 19.00
- * Calling all independent community pharmacy teams.... Independent Pharmacy Awards 2025 now open for entries!
- * Surrey's Home Equipment Finder

LPC News



Community Pharmacy leaflet and poster to promote services to the public in Brighton

Marie Hockley, Deputy Chief Officer for Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex, has been working with the Trust for Developing Communities ([TDC](#)), [The Hangleton and Knoll project](#), and Public Health in Brighton & Hove to create a [leaflet](#) and [poster](#) that will be shared across the city to promote Community Pharmacy services.

This piece of work was funded by the TDC and developed due to patient feedback

at the Integrated Community Teams meetings, that members of the public and voluntary care organisations didn't know how to access services, what services were available and were confused about Pharmacy First, particularly the seven common conditions and how to identify them. It was important to explain the Pharmacy First seven common conditions to enable patients to walk in and self-refer appropriately, this has therefore been incorporated into the leaflet, so patients are supported to access the healthcare they need.

Information is accurate and remains up to date as the QR codes link directly to the national service finder and public health website to find a pharmacy. QR codes will take patients directly to the list of commissioned pharmacies and postcode finders so they can choose where to access services.

This is a fantastic achievement for our Communities and Community Pharmacies.

We are actively exploring options to secure funding to roll this out in East and West Sussex.



Reminder NMS claim changes

Ahead of making a claim for the New Medicine Service (NMS) consultations carried

out in April 2025, pharmacy owners are reminded of the changes to the service's payment structure that came into effect this month.

CPE have published an update on claiming for NMS consultations, including the new £14 fee per consultation and how to report and submit claims using the MYS portal. [Learn more here.](#)

Local Services



Important guidance documents for people in Police Custody who require supervised Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST)

Surrey police update OST pilot: Go live at 07:00 on Tuesday 6th May at Staines Custody

We have been supporting Surrey Police, Mountain Healthcare and i-Access to create a guidance document which sits alongside the pharmacy supervised consumption SLA that allows medications to be collected by a Police Officer for people who are in police custody. This is to assure you that this is in line with procedures and allows a seamless transfer of supervised medication that is usually given under the direction of the pharmacist.

The guidance can be downloaded [here](#).

Please read the guidance document, save to your folders/print out and adjust your SOPs as required, this process will be in place for all people who are detained in custody and require their medication whilst in police custody.

Sussex CGL

Sussex CGL have created this guidance to sit alongside the pharmacy service specification that allows medications to be collected by a Police Officer for people who are in police custody, this process is already in place. This is to assure you that this is in line with procedures and allows a seamless transfer of supervised medication that is usually given under the direction of the pharmacist.

The guidance can be downloaded [here](#).

Please read the guidance document, save to your folders/print out and adjust your SOPs as required, this process will be in place for all people who are detained in custody and require their medication whilst in police custody.

Training



For Frimley ICB pharmacists only - We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity as part of Frimley ICB's plans to launch a local "Teach and Treat" programme.

This initiative aims to create a sustainable, scalable model that will increase access to high-quality Independent Prescribing training placements for community pharmacists.

Frimley ICB will be working with four designated Community Pharmacy Hub sites supported by trained Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs) and DPP mentors to facilitate direct patient care, supervision, and mentorship.

Frimley ICB are now inviting pharmacists who are planning to undertake their Independent Prescribing qualification to express their interest in completing their placement at one of our Community Pharmacy Hub sites.

Please note:

- **Places will be limited**, and applications will be reviewed to ensure fair allocation based on eligibility and placement availability.
- Final placement offers are dependent on contractual agreements, and timelines may be subject to change.
- Sites are based in Maidenhead & Farnborough
- Our longer-term ambition is to expand this model to additional sites, helping to build a strong and sustainable pipeline of independent prescribers across the Frimley system.

The deadline for completing the form is **Friday 23rd May**.

If you are interested, please complete the Expression of Interest form linked [here](#).



For Frimley ICB Pharmacists only – opportunity to complete a Certificate in Advanced History Taking and Clinical Assessment

Clinical roles within pharmacy continue to expand with increasing opportunity for pharmacists to take on enhanced responsibilities. In line with national priorities and local workforce development needs, **Frimley ICB** is pleased to offer a limited number of funded places on the **Certificate in Advanced History Taking and Clinical Assessment** course which will be delivered by the University of Reading.

This initiative is aimed at pharmacists who are actively seeking to develop their clinical knowledge and hands-on assessment skills particularly in preparation for or as part of advanced clinical roles.

More information about the course is available here: [Certificate in Advanced History Taking and Clinical Assessment](#).

Please note:

- **Places are limited** and will be allocated to pharmacists working across community pharmacy and general practice within the Frimley system.
- Cohorts will commence in **September 2025** and **April 2026**.
- Applicants must be available to attend all course dates.

If you are interested, please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#).

The deadline for completing the form is **Friday 23rd May**.

PQS



Aspiration Payment

Pharmacy owners will be able to claim an Aspiration payment if they wish to between **9am on 1st May 2025 and 11.59pm on 16th May 2025**.

Pharmacy owners will need to make a declaration to the NHSBSA using [MYS](#) and indicate which domains they intend to achieve before the end of the declaration period. The aspiration payment must be claimed between 9am on 1st May 2025 to 11.59pm on 16th May 2025 for pharmacy owners to receive payment on 1st July 2025.

Further information on PQS and the aspiration payment can be found [here](#).

Newsletters

Have you seen the latest Hints and Tips Bulletin from NHSBSA? Click [here](#) to see Issue 59 which covers:

- [Tax credits ended on Saturday 5 April 2025](#)
- [NHS Pharmacy First Service - PPV activity](#)
- [MYS January activity - Monday 5 May 2025 deadline](#)
- [Correctly using EPS exemption code 0015](#)
- [Prescription items - avoiding refer backs](#)



- [Endorsing not dispensed items](#)
 - [Contractors reminded to use correct prescribing codes](#)
 - [Understanding your Schedule of Payments](#)
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Additionally you may be interested in.....



Sussex ICB – Methotrexate 10mg position statement for all healthcare providers

The new Sussex ICB position statement for methotrexate 10mg tablets is now available and has been uploaded onto the ICB website and to the Sussex Partner Formulary within the drug entries.

The link to the position statement is available [here](#).



Virtual meeting: Prescribing the contraceptive pill Date: 13th May 2025

Time: 19.00

Dr Anita Sharma Raina is a GP with a special interest in women's health, diabetes and education. She is a GP partner in Surrey, Programme Director for Crawley and East Surrey GP Training Scheme and Appraiser for NHS England South East. She is a GP trainer, academic mentor, family planning trainer and has recently been awarded a certificate in menopause care by FRS. 33 years of having worked globally as a doctor, Anita has experienced working across diverse cultural backgrounds and varying health beliefs of patients.

She is passionate about General Practice and the role of Primary care in providing patient centred care. She believes that communication and shared care management are central to patient care and brings her skills as an accredited effective coach and mentor (level 5) to her every role.

This is a webinar presented by Exeltis

If you'd like to join the virtual meeting, please confirm your attendance via email to kashmira.patel@exeltis.com.

A meeting invite will be sent to you after your confirmation, the meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams.



Calling all independent community pharmacy teams.... Independent Pharmacy Awards 2025 now open for entries!

The Independent Pharmacy Awards returns this autumn to the House of Commons to highlight and celebrate the brilliance and endurance of independent community pharmacy teams across the UK.

Independents from all four home nations are improving the health and wellbeing of their local communities in a variety of ways and meeting every challenge head-on despite inadequate funding and increasing costs.

This is a unique opportunity to shout about how you and your team improve the health and wellbeing of your local communities. Tell us your inspiring story so we can tell the world!

The Awards take place on Thursday 2nd October 2025, offering a banquet lunch for all our finalists and their personal guests, where we will announce the winners.

This year it could be you!

There are six categories – and no limit to the number of categories you decide to go for. Choose from:

Pharmacy Team of the Year

Pharmacy Technician of the Year

Pharmacy Innovation of the Year

Independent Prescriber of the Year

Best Supporting Local Representative Group (LPC, CP(HB) committee, LHB forum or LCG)

Independent Pharmacist of the Year

Entries must be made online and we recommend preparing your entry on a Word document and copying it into the online entry forms which can be found [here](#), along with the entry criteria. For more information click [here](#).

Any questions, please email: neil.trainis@1530.com; liz.coop@1530.com.



Surrey's Home Equipment Finder

If you have customers who you know are struggling with certain everyday tasks or ask for advice on aids that they can use around the home, Surrey County Council offer an online directory that details hundreds of products which people might find useful.

Web users can search for 'Surrey Home Equipment Finder' or use the short URL www.surreycc.gov.uk/hef to see products that can help with a particular need or are suitable for those with certain long term conditions. The council run the site purely as an information service, with links to products which are offered by a variety of retailers.

To help promote the site, they've created a simple, 20 second MP4 'slide show' video (standard 16:9 TV ratio) which can be made available to anyone who is able to display it. If you'd like a copy, just email bob.pritchard@surreycc.gov.uk with the title 'HEF video request'.

Surrey residents who have no access to the internet can visit their local library and ask staff to help them with their search.

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