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**Community
Pharmacy**
Surrey & Sussex

Newsletter

22/05/2025

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:

- * Excellence In Pharmacy Sussex Conference
- * MP visit to Kamsons Pharmacy
- * LFD service changes
- * Important message for pharmacies who provide the Locally commissioned Vapes service in Brighton
- * Call for patient feedback on Pharmacy First
- * Funding for Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025: Deadline 15 June 2025
- * CPPE Launches hands-on workshop to strengthen hypertension case-finding in Community Pharmacy
- * Frimley ICB – Looking for a DPP - Expression of Interest for Teach & Treat
- * PQS Training elements
- * Surrey Heartlands ICB – the new Joint Formulary & PAD will be launched on Thursday 22nd May and will replace the existing PAD and the local Trust's

formularies.

* Surrey Training Hub - Munch and Learn timetable May-July 2025

LPC News



Excellence In Pharmacy Sussex Conference

On Saturday the 17th of May, Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex attended the Excellence In Pharmacy Sussex Conference at the University of Brighton. It was great to network with partners across Sussex, represent community pharmacy and highlight the success of Pharmacy First in a case study session.

A huge thank you to our LPC member, **Michaela Tytherleigh** and pharmacist **James Williams** for supporting the Pharmacy Technician session and presenting on all the great work our technicians are doing in community pharmacy as well as the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

We are extremely proud to have **won the award for Excellence in Continuing Professional Development or Education** of others. This is a huge achievement for

CPSS, and we are grateful for the recognition of the hard work we do to support the development of our community pharmacy teams.



Alison Bennett MP, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex visited Kamsons Pharmacy in Haywards Heath on the 8th of May to hear from pharmacy staff about community pharmacy the challenges and opportunities. Following on from the informative visit, Alison has written an article for the Mid Sussex Times.

[Political Opinion: Alison Bennett MP: Behind the Counter - how our community pharmacies are supporting Mid Sussex.](#)

Local Services

LFD service: Changes to patient cohort eligibility

Read the news story on our website



LFD service changes

Following an update to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) [guidance on antiviral treatment for COVID-19](#), which removes some of the cohorts of patients eligible for these treatments, these changes will also need to be reflected in the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) service.

The changes in the NICE guidance means the following patient cohorts are **no longer eligible** to receive free LFD tests through the service:

- People aged 85 years and over
- People with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device
- People on the organ transplant waiting list
- People resident in a care home who are aged 70 years and over
- People resident in a care home who have a BMI of 35 kg/m² or more
- People resident in a care home who have diabetes
- People resident in a care home who have heart failure
- People currently in a hospital who are aged 70 years and over
- People currently in a hospital who have a BMI of 35 kg/m² or more
- People currently in a hospital who have diabetes
- People currently in a hospital who have heart failure

Pharmacy owners are asked to brief their teams on the changes to the eligible patient cohorts for the service, update their standard operating procedure (SOP)

for the service and stop supplying LFD tests to the above patient groups **by Monday 16th June 2025.**

CPE have also updated our resources to support these changes.

Read more [here](#).



Important message for pharmacies who provide the Locally commissioned Vapes service in Brighton

Issuing vapes is an element of the smoking cessation service in Brighton, this allows pharmacies to issue a Totally Wicked voucher to a person who is trying to quit smoking so they can use vapes as part of their smoking cessation journey. It is important to ensure that all staff providing the service are aware of this and offer vapes to the patient in accordance with the service specification.

Vapes are considered a support aid for a person who is trying to quit:

- Vaping is significantly less harmful than smoking, and
- It is endorsed as the best alternative for smokers who are unable or unwilling to quit using other methods.

The below training and guidance are available below for pharmacy teams;

1. [Support for the Swap to Stop programme, with encouragement to actively promote it.](#)
 2. [Accurate guidance on vaping, based on evidence.](#)
[Training available via the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training \(NCSCT\).](#)
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Call for feedback on Pharmacy First

Community Pharmacy England and Healthwatch England are collecting patient feedback to help improve the Pharmacy First service. Please encourage patients to complete the survey after Minor Illness or Clinical Pathways consultations.

Posters and flyers are available to support promotion. Responses will inform service improvements and national evaluation. The Survey is open until at least the end of 2025. [Read more and download the resources.](#)

Training



Funding for Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship

Programme 2025: Deadline 15 June 2025

A message on behalf of:

South East Pharmacy

Workforce, Training and Education Directorate

NHS England – South East

NHS WTE are excited to announce the launch of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025. This programme will support Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians (PTPTs) to be employed and complete their 24-month apprenticeship training within a **community pharmacy setting**. Upon completion of training and registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) the registered pharmacy technicians' will be able to utilise their expertise and knowledge to support community pharmacies in various ways, including contributing to the delivery of pharmacy services and broader healthcare reforms.

Funding Offer

We are offering a training contribution of **£15,053 per trainee, per year for two years** (24 months) to support community pharmacies in developing a PTPT programme that meets the [GPhC IET standards for pharmacy technicians \(PDF only, 713KB\)](#) and the [NHS England Education Quality Framework](#).

Next Steps

Application for funding is through an expression of interest (Eoi) submitted via an [online application form](#). The application window will open on Monday 19 May 2025 until Sunday 15 June 2025.

We will be holding a series of national stakeholder engagement meetings via MS Teams to provide more information on the programme including the application process and how to access apprenticeship funding. Use the link below to attend your preferred date. You only need to attend one meeting date.

- [7pm Wednesday 21 May](#)
- [11am Wednesday 28 May](#)
- [8am Thursday 29 May 2025](#)
- [1pm Monday 02 June](#)
- [1pm, Sunday 08 June 2025](#)
- [12pm Tuesday 10 June](#)

In addition, the South East Pharmacy Team are holding two drop in Q&A sessions to learn more about employing a pharmacy technician apprentice. No need to register just drop in on one of the following dates:

Thursday 22nd May 1 – 2pm – [Joining link](#)

Tuesday 27th May 7 – 8pm – [Joining link](#)

If you have any questions, please email england.wtepharmacy.se@nhs.net with Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025 in the subject field.

Guidance for contractors can be found [here](#).



CPPE Launches hands-on workshop to strengthen hypertension case-finding in Community Pharmacy

CPPE are pleased to announce the launch of a new face-to-face workshop designed to enhance the skills and confidence of pharmacy professionals delivering the NHS Hypertension Case-Finding Service.

- The workshop, *Blood pressure assessment in community pharmacy: essential skills*, will take place on **Sunday 29 June from 10:30am to 13:00pm at The Sandman Hotel, 18-23 Tinsley Lane South, Three Bridges, Crawley, RH10 8XH**

The workshop will be delivered in collaboration with the British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS), the event combines clinical expertise with practical, real-world application.

This new workshop supports pharmacy professionals at all stages – whether launching the service or looking to refine existing practice. It offers the opportunity to learn practical skills on using ABPM equipment, interpreting blood pressure readings, and managing consultations through a person-centred, shared decision-making approach.

Attendees will also benefit from learning how to train wider pharmacy teams, ensuring consistent delivery and embedding the service into everyday practice.

Key learning outcomes include:

- Identifying eligible individuals for the service
- Demonstrating and interpreting BP and ABPM assessments
- Providing lifestyle advice and promoting behaviour change
- Creating a team training plan
- Using person-centred communication to build trust and engagement

With limited places available, early booking is recommended. CPPE encourages pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and trainee pharmacists to attend and use this opportunity to network, upskill, and strengthen their contribution to public health through effective hypertension management.

To find out more and register, click [here](#).



Frimley ICB – Looking for a DPP - Expression of Interest for Teach & Treat

Frimley ICB is planning to run a **“Teach and Treat Programme”** locally. This project aims to create a **sustainable** and **effective** Teach and Treat model that provides comprehensive training and development opportunities for IP learners.

They plan to utilise **community pharmacy hub sites** with trained Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs) to offer more placements and **better access to DPPs** for community pharmacists who are undertaking the Independent Prescribing (IP) qualification. Their aim is to develop a develop a scalable model

that can be expanded in the future based on the success of the initial implementation, with potential for additional community pharmacy sites and increased learner capacity as the number of active IPs and DPPs in community pharmacy grows, partly driven by this project.

Community pharmacy hub sites will be supported by trained Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs) who are supported by DPP mentors, to facilitate direct patient care alongside mentorship and supervision.

Are You Looking for a DPP?

If you are a pharmacist seeking to undertake your Independent Prescribing qualification and are interested in completing your placement at one of our Community Hub sites, please complete the form [here](#).

PQS



PQS Piece by Piece – Training Tracker

Training elements

Attached [here](#) is a master CPSS training tracker to help support you log completions for PQS required modules.

You can print this out / save this and have it at the front of your PQS training folder!

Remember to add all training records and certificates for all your staff members to this folder for assurance checks.

Note for anyone who has completed the CPPE Sepsis training outside of the specified PQS time period, the training will need to be accessed again. If the assessment only is accessed and completed, the individuals PQS record on CPPE will show the PQS sepsis training as incomplete.

Newsletters

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



Additionally you may be interested in.....



Surrey Heartlands ICB – the new Joint Formulary & PAD will be launched on Thursday 22nd May and will replace the existing PAD and the local Trust’s formularies.

Users of the Surrey PAD will automatically be redirected to the new platform so there is no need to worry about using a different link.

More information, including some screen shots and some FAQs, have been placed on the current PAD: [Guidelines : Surrey Heartlands Joint Formulary & PAD](#).

A few key points to note:

- Searches are conducted in the same way, using a drug name, condition or commonly used term.
- The most significant difference for current PAD users will be the introduction of a Formulary page. The Formulary page is what you will see after conducting a search.
- If you wish to access the PAD page (where documents are stored, committee decisions and further information) you simply click on the drug name on the Formulary page
- There are many more drugs and indications in the new Joint Formulary compared to the existing PAD. The Joint Formulary includes the drugs that are on the PAD plus the formularies of ASPH, RSFT, SASH and SABP
- There are a number of therapeutic areas that are still under review, and these will be listed in the News feed on the new platform. The most significant being Nutrition, Mental Health and Skin which should be completed within the next 2-3 months.

The new platform has a Contact Us feature that is accessible from the home page. Please use this to let them know if you come across anything that you think isn't quite right or if you wish to provide feedback on the platform itself.

A webinar is being planned for early June where a demonstration of the new Joint Formulary platform will be provided and the opportunity to answer any questions. Details will follow.



Munch & Learn timetable
May – July 2025

Surrey Training Hub - Munch and Learn timetable May-July 2025

'Munch & Learn' training sessions are designed help you make the most of your Surrey Heartlands library services and to support you with accessing and searching a variety of online resources relevant to your work.

These bite-size sessions, delivered via MS Teams, last no more than 30 mins. Alternatively, we can deliver a session specifically for your team.

See [here](#) for more information.

Email Kerry to book your place: Kerry.Seelhoff@nhs.net

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