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Newsletter

28/05/2025

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.

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would like to welcome more pharmacy technicians from all sectors to engage with them.

- * Surrey Heartlands ICB formulary access

- * Viartis Meeting Invitation: Digital Health & Digital Therapeutics Roundtable

LPC News



MP Community Pharmacy Visit

Following an invitation to visit a community pharmacy we were pleased to welcome **Tom Rutland MP**, Member of Parliament for East Worthing and Shoreham to Boots Pharmacy in Shoreham on the 23rd of May. During the visit he heard from pharmacy team members about the work of community pharmacy including our

current challenges and potential future opportunities.

Local Services



Brighton Locally Commissioned Service – Swap to Stop

Swap to Stop Programme - As you may be aware, the UK Government has launched the Swap to Stop programme, which provides free vape starter kits to adult smokers as part of a national strategy to reduce smoking-related harm.

Brighton & Hove Stop Smoking Team have provided the following key facts:

Vaping is substantially less harmful than smoking. It is widely supported by public health authorities as a safer alternative for adult smokers who struggle to quit through other means.

Although not without risk vaping poses only a small fraction of the risk of smoking. This is because there is no combustion with vapes and the vapour produced does not contain the harmful chemicals in cigarette smoke that cause respiratory disease, heart disease and cancer. Anyone who smokes and who completely switches to vaping is making a change that results in immediate health benefits. Vaping is one of the most effective Stop Smoking aids.

Nicotine vapes are effective cessation aids and are recommended as a first choice stop smoking aid. High-quality randomised controlled trials have found nicotine vapes to be an effective aid to quit smoking. The use of nicotine vapes as a stop smoking aid has been endorsed by NICE, the NCSCT, the British Thoracic Society, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and the Royal College of Midwives.

The Swap to Stop programme is backed by the UK Government and the NHS. It is designed to support smokers in making a positive change.

Pharmacy staff are encouraged to complete the official NCSCT training module to confidently and correctly advise clients.

Sources: · NCSCT / DHSC Commissioning guidance · Programme briefing: [NCSCT e-learning](#)

If the pharmacy offers the Brighton and Hove stop smoking service check that pharmacy team members understand about the evidence of vapes compared to smoking.

Training



Asthma CPD webinar – new prescribing guidance Tuesday 10th June 7pm-8pm

You are invited to attend the Asthma CPD webinar focusing on key formulary changes and to support learning about AIR and MART and the new changes in asthma care.

This webinar will be led by our guest speaker Helen Marlow, Lead Respiratory Specialist Pharmacist and NICE Medicines and Prescribing Associate at Surrey Heartlands ICB.

The webinar will cover:

- What is the new approach to asthma management in the NICE/BTS/SIGN guidelines
- Preventer and reliever therapy – AIR and MART and the benefits for patients
- What the Surrey Heartlands asthma guidelines say about inhaler choices in primary care
- Tips for supporting asthma patients with their inhalers.

This is a fantastic informative session supporting the New Medicines Service and continued professional development.

To sign up for the webinar click [here](#).

CPTAP Funding 2025

Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme

Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme (CPTAP)

2025: Deadline 15th June 2025

Don't forget to get your applications in for CPTAP!

The WT&E South East team have put together a one page document which outlines the steps that a community pharmacy contractor needs to take before submitting

their expression of interest by 15th June. You can find the one page document [here](#).

There are several nationally delivered stakeholder engagement sessions, available on different days, and at different times to be able to support contractors attending one session.

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

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

You can also email CPSS on LPC@communitypharmacys.co.uk for support.



CPSS Event with CPPE - Preparing to deliver PGD's training session 22nd June

You are invited to sign up for the **Preparing to deliver PGD's** training session which will be held on **Sunday 22nd June 10-12pm** (9:30am arrival for coffee and cake) at the **Sandman Signature London Gatwick Hotel**, 18-23 Tinsley Lane South Crawley, RH10 8XH.

This is open to both Pharmacists and **Pharmacy Technicians**. With the growing

role of Pharmacy Technicians and the recent changes to allow Pharmacy Technicians to utilise PGDs, this is a great opportunity to start preparing to deliver PGDs.

Learning aims:

To understand what a PGD is

To be aware how to operate under a PGD

To understand the steps to take to become competent to work under a PGD

To apply the learning to local services which involve PGDs

To sign up for the event please click [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the event.



Independent Prescribing courses 2025-26 – NHS England funded training

Applications for NHS England funded independent prescribing courses are open. Courses are available up to March 2026, with several universities offering multiple dates for cohort intakes. Start dates will depend on the university provider.

Pharmacists who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to apply for independent prescribing courses at a variety of universities across England:

1. Community pharmacists (including locum pharmacists)

Eligible pharmacists may apply only to those universities as listed on the [NHS England website](#). They will need to demonstrate (as a minimum):

- The support of an identified designated prescribing practitioner (DPP).
- An appropriate practice-based learning environment in a prescribing setting that can offer appropriate clinical support.
- Evidence that you meet the course provider eligibility criteria (applicants will be subject to their chosen university's enrolment processes).
- Commitment to use the skill within your area of competence and expertise, for the delivery of NHS clinical services as they emerge.

Universities are listed on the [NHS England website](#) by sector. Please note: the available universities differ depending on the sector you work in. Course length and the number of face-to-face days required vary between universities. Please check the individual university webpages for further information on course format.

Funding

Independent Prescribing training is available to pharmacists who meet the eligibility criteria. Tuition fees are fully funded by NHS England. Pharmacists that are successful in applying to one of the approved universities will be allocated a fully funded place directly by the university. They do not need to apply to NHS England for funding separately.

For any further enquiries, please contact england.pharmacyteam@nhs.net

In addition to the offer mentioned above, [University of Brighton](#) and [University of Winchester](#) are also providing IP funded course provision. For further details and information on how to apply, please visit their respective webpages.



What's on at CPPE this June

The next step in developing yourself as a professional is right here.

Further details [here](#).

PQS

**Pharmacy
Quality
Scheme (PQS)**

To qualify for a PQS payment, your pharmacy must be registered for both the Pharmacy First and Pharmacy Contraception Services. Contractors must have signed up to deliver the Pharmacy First Service and the Pharmacy Contraception service by the end of 31st August 2025 and remain registered for both services until the end of the scheme, 31st March 2026.

Contractors will **not** be required to make a declaration for this gateway criterion as this will be verified by a post-payment review of the contractor's declaration to deliver the services and subsequent registration from 1st September 2025 until the end of the scheme, 31st March 2026.

Newsletters

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



Additionally you may be interested in.....



Sussex Branch of APTUK (Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK) would like to welcome more pharmacy technicians from all sectors to engage with them. **Non-members are very welcome to attend their first meeting for free.** Also, **Trainee Pharmacy Technicians are entitled to free APTUK membership for the duration of their training.**

It's also worth mentioning—**Sussex is the current APTUK Branch of the Year!** 🏆

You can find more information here: <https://www.aptuk.org/>

About APTUK

APTUK is the professional leadership body for pharmacy technicians in the UK. It represents and supports pharmacy technicians across all sectors, advocating for their interests and promoting excellence within the profession.

Why Join APTUK?

- **Professional Advocacy**

APTUK is a strong voice at strategic, regulatory, and policy levels.

- **Professional Development**

Members get access to learning modules, CPD resources, and the *Pharmacy Technician Journal*.

- **Networking and Support**

Connect with peers, share experiences, and find support throughout your career.

- **Recognition and Status**

Members can use post-nominals (MAPharmT) and access tools like Competency Frameworks.

- **Career Advancement**

Access to exclusive training, events, and opportunities to develop professionally.

- **Expertise and Guidance**

APTUK offers expert advice on educational issues, practice scope, and professional standards.

- **High-Quality Resources**

A library of e-learning modules and materials to support continuous growth.

- **Advocacy for the Profession**

APTUK actively promotes the role and value of pharmacy technicians across the healthcare system.



Surrey Heartlands ICB formulary access

As updated in last week's newsletter, a new Surrey Heartlands ICB formulary website has now launched. The live link is <https://surrey.res.services/PAD>.



Viatrix Meeting Invitation: Digital Health & Digital Therapeutics

Roundtable

Viatrix are running a roundtable workshop focused on the evolving role of community pharmacy in the era of digital health and digital therapeutics.

This interactive session will bring together a select group of pharmacists to:

- Share experiences and perspectives on current engagement with digital health tools and therapies within community pharmacy settings
- Identify key challenges and barriers to implementation, including workflow integration, reimbursement, and patient uptake
- Explore innovative solutions through presentations from three leading digital health and therapeutics companies
- Provide feedback and insight on the relevance and practicality of these solutions for pharmacy teams and patient care

Your input will help shape the way community pharmacy can lead in delivering accessible, tech-enabled healthcare.

Event Details:

Date: **26th June 2025**

Time: **11am until 3pm**

Location: **Viatrix UK, Trident Place, Mosquito Way, Hatfield, AL10 9UL**

Who can attend: Pharmacists and pharmacy leaders interested in digital innovation, patient engagement, and expanding clinical services in the community.

To join please RSVP by 30/05/2025 to lara.jarman@viatris.com

Lara Jarman

Healthcare Solutions Lead

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