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Newsletter

11/06/2025

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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LPC News

Data Security & Protection Toolkit 2025: Community Pharmacy England guidance available

Reminder DSPT submission

Community Pharmacy England published new guidance to help pharmacy owners complete this year's Data Security and Protection Toolkit. The Toolkit is used to make a pharmacy's information governance (IG) declaration and must be completed **by Friday 30th June 2025.**

If you have not already submitted your DSPT, we recommend that you log in to the Toolkit as soon as possible and begin reviewing the CPE guidance documents.

[Read more, including the guidance materials.](#)

[Watch the recorded workshop here.](#)

After completing the toolkit remember to press publish to complete the submission.



CPCF developments and pharmacy finances: Share your views

Community Pharmacy England wants to hear how pharmacy owners in Surrey and Sussex are feeling about recent CPCF changes and their finances.

A new opinion poll is asking how your pharmacy business is faring post-settlement and what you want to see in the NHS 10-Year Plan. The results will be discussed at the Committee's June meeting and contribute to efforts to push for further improvements and support for the sector.

The short survey, open until **11.59 pm on Sunday, 22nd June**, offers local pharmacy owners the chance to feed directly into the national negotiator's work.

[Read more here.](#)



Core Opening Hours Changes

Pharmacy owners who would like to change their core contractual hours (core opening hours) should be aware of recent changes in the application process. We have updated our website with information on the new process, available under the A-E section here - <https://surreysussex.communitypharmacy.org.uk/a-z/a-e/>.

If you need any support in completing your application, please contact us at

lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk.

Local Services

LFD service: Changes to patient cohort eligibility

Reminder on the LFD Service Patient Cohort Changes

NICE guidance on antiviral treatment for C-19 was amended on 1st May, removing some of the cohorts of patients eligible for these treatments.

CPE have discussed the corresponding changes to the LFD service which need to be made with NHS England; the required changes are simply to remove reference to eligible groups of patients that were added to the eligible cohort last year.

Consequently, the eligible groups for the LFD service return to those that were included when the service was first commissioned.

NHS England have agreed a four week notice period for pharmacy owners to allow them to brief staff and to update their SOP for the service. **Pharmacies should stop supplying LFDs to the patient groups removed from the eligible cohort as soon as possible, but by Monday 16th June at the latest.**

[Further information available here.](#)



Changes to the claim period for Pharmacy First consultations

Pharmacy First consultations will need to be **claimed for within one month** from the end of the month in which they were provided.

For example, Pharmacy First consultations provided in June 2025 will need to be claimed on MYS by the last day of July 2025.

This also means that pharmacy owners who have not yet claimed for **Pharmacy First consultations carried out in March, April and May 2025 must claim these by 11.59pm on 30th June 2025 to receive payment.**



Reminder from the local Drug and Alcohol Teams - Buprenorphine/Espranor Supply

There is a **significant difference in bioavailability between Buprenorphine Sublingual Tablets and Espranor Oral Lyophilisate**, and as such, these formulations are **not interchangeable without appropriate dose adjustment**. Pharmacists should not switch between these medications without prescriber input. The prescriber should be contacted in cases of shortages to discuss the clinical differences between generic buprenorphine and Espranor before any changes are made.

Training



Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme (CPTAP)

FINAL REMINDER DEADLINE 15th JUNE

Don't forget the fast-approaching deadline **THIS SUNDAY 15th JUNE for CPTAP funding**. Please ensure applications are submitted before the deadline as there will be no exceptions for late submissions.

Contractors can apply for a training contribution of £15, 053 per trainee, per year for two years to support community pharmacies in developing a Pre Registration Pharmacy Technician programme and support you to grow your workforce.

Please do contact england.wtepharmacy.se@nhs.net or simranjohal@communitypharmacyss.co.uk for further information and support.

This is a great opportunity to grow your workforce, don't miss out!!!



Asthma updated guidance webinar available on demand

The CPSS Asthma updated guidance webinar focused on key formulary changes and supporting community pharmacy teams to learn about AIR and MART and the new changes in asthma care.

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

The webinar covered:

- 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 was a fantastic informative session supporting the New Medicines Service and continued professional development, and we would encourage all pharmacy professional to watch this on demand [here](#).



Sussex - Overview of Level 4 Pharmacy Technician Courses – 17th June

13:00 – 14:00



NHS Sussex in collaboration with Bradford College, Buttercups Training, and University of East Anglia present

AN OVERVIEW OF LEVEL 4 PHARMACY TECHNICIAN COURSES



- ARE YOU A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN LOOKING TO ADVANCE YOUR PRACTICE?
- ARE YOU AN EMPLOYER LOOKING TO DEVELOP YOUR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS?

JOIN US FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE LEVEL 4 COURSES OFFERED BY BRADFORD COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA AND BUTTERCUPS.

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Pharmacy Transformation Lead- NHS Sussex

TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2025
13:00-14:00
MS TEAMS

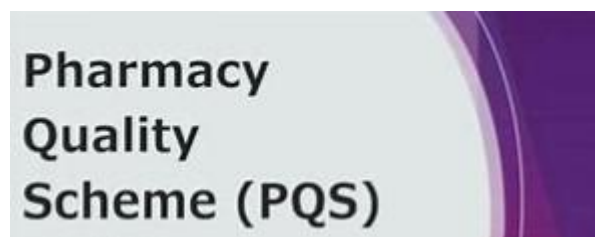




Surrey NHS Health Check Training – Wednesday 9th July, 09:30 – 15:30

Please sign up below to the training day being hosted by Surrey County Council if you would like to learn or refresh your learning around the NHS Health Check. Feel free to pass on to colleagues, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. If you are unable to make this date but would like to be considered for the next training day, please contact Will.King@surreycc.gov.uk
[NHS Health Checks Tickets, Wed 9 Jul 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite.](#)

PQS



PQS - Piece by Piece: CPPE Mental Health Training (Domain 1b)

To support the quality of New Medicine Service consultations following the expansion of the service, by the end of 31st March 2026, all pharmacists working at the pharmacy on the day of the declaration must have satisfactorily completed, within the last 4 years (between 1st April 2022 and end of 31st March 2026), the

'Consulting with people with mental health problems' e-learning CPPE online training.

Since there is no e-assessment for the e-learning, pharmacists will need to confirm completion of the 'Consulting with people with mental health problems' e-learning in their CPPE record. When a pharmacist has confirmed completion, they will be able to download a certificate of study.

You can use the training tracker we sent in Week 2 ([here](#)) to monitor completions and retain certificates.

Newsletters

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



Additionally you may be interested in.....

Guidance on the correct use of the 'FS' (0017) exemption category

Prescription Charge Deductions for 'FS' exemption category

Prescription charges were **deducted from half of items** marked as meeting the 'FS' exemption category in February 2025.

Following new data from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), Community Pharmacy England is reminding pharmacy owners of the correct use of the 'Was

prescribed free-of-charge STI sexual health medication' exemption (coded '0017').

CPE have produced a number of resources to support pharmacy teams on this topic, including a video guide, factsheet, and more.

[Update your knowledge](#)



Funding applications now open for modules within the Master's in Genomic Medicine Framework

The National Genomics Education Programme (NHS England) have confirmed that funding applications are now open for the 2025/26 financial year for modules within the Master's in Genomic Medicine framework.

Funding is currently available for modules starting before 31st March 2026.

Applicants can initially receive funding for up to four modules. Upon successful completion, you may apply for further funding – up to a total equivalent of 12 modules – to complete the full Master's degree.

Full details on eligibility and how to apply can be found on the Genomics Education Programme [website](#), and in the funding rules of each [module](#). Please note that to be eligible, applicants must be working under an NHS contract in England and have the support of their line manager.

If you are aware of any eligible colleagues who may be interested, please

encourage them to contact their chosen university as soon as possible so their details can be submitted for NHS England funding.



PrescQIPP

Your local ICB subscribes to PrescQIPP and this means that free access is also available to all community pharmacies in the area.

Register for free access to PrescQIPP resources using your NHS email address at www.prescqipp.info/login.

Resources available include:

Bulletins and webkits on a huge variety of clinical topics, such as pain, respiratory, anticoagulation, antimicrobial stewardship, polypharmacy and many more.

Masterclasses - Monthly clinical webinars, across a variety of key therapeutic areas and delivered by national experts in their field.

Clinical and skills webinars covering topical issues, such as Inhaler technique, Reducing the inhaler carbon footprint and Electronic Repeat Dispensing. Can't make the time of the webinar - don't worry they are recorded and freely available on the website, so you can listen at a time that suits you.

Virtual Professional Groups that meet monthly/quarterly to network and share good practice, including:

- Medication Safety

- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Care homes
- Medication safety
- Nutrition
- Pharmacy technicians
- Polypharmacy and deprescribing

Leadership at Lunch - A popular series of one hour bite sized sessions on the fundamentals of leadership.

For more information and how to sign up click [here](#).

To gain access just register, making sure you select the correct ICB as the organisation – either Sussex ICB, Surrey Heartlands ICB or Frimley ICB depending on where your pharmacy is located.

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