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Independent Review into Community Pharmacy Contractor Representation

Most of you will be aware that there is an Independent Review into Community Pharmacy contractor representation being led by Professor David Wright, and some of you will have been involved in local focus groups and responded to the contractor surveys.

This has led to a virtual PSNC/LPC conference which was held in July and attended by Andrew Howitt, Chair of Devon LPC, and Sue Taylor Chief Officer.

Following this conference, a Next Steps paper has been published which is attached with this newsletter and asking all LPCs to respond to four questions contained within that paper, before August 31st 2020.

The questions are:

- How should we fund the process, both to take work on the independent review forwards, and any longer-term changes to LPCs and PSNC?
- How should we explore the reviews findings, and recommendations together, and consider any alternative proposals?
- How should we manage this from a governance perspective?
- What should we do to ensure that contractors have ultimate oversight?

The Devon Committee will be considering its' response to the questions at its' next meeting scheduled for the 24th August 2020 but would really want to be able to take into account the views and opinions of our contractors. We have put together a Survey Monkey to gather your thoughts and would be very grateful if you would take some time to let us have some feedback so that we can respond to the PSNC in an informed and reflective manner. The link to the [survey is here](#). Your views and thoughts are very important to us and any feedback would be very much appreciated.

PPE orders for community pharmacies

From Wednesday 5 August 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has been emailing community pharmacies, inviting them to register with the PPE portal. The portal has been developed by DHSC in partnership with eBay UK, NHS Supply Chain, the Army, Clipper and Royal Mail.

Emails will come from PPE Dedicated Supply Channel (please note this email address does not accept incoming emails): ppe.dedicated.supply.channel@notifications.service.gov.uk. **Please ensure that you are regularly checking your NHS email accounts in order to ensure that the invitation is received and actioned.**

Pharmacies are encouraged to register promptly, to ensure they can order emergency personal protective equipment (PPE) from a central inventory. This is to supplement (not replace) the wholesale supply route that already operates. New users will initially have small order limits, but these are under review.

Orders through the portal should arrive within 48 hours if placed before 1pm. Orders placed after 1pm will be subject to an additional 24-hours. Information on what items are available for your sector and size will be made available from Monday 3 August on the [DHSC Guidance webpage](#).

If providers have any queries or have not received an email invite by close of play Monday 10 August, please contact the PPE portal customer services at: 0800 876 6802.

Further detailed information is also available on the [NHS Business Services Authority website](#).

Pharmacy video - Vaccinations and PPE [Information]

Nick Daines, (Pharmacist and owner, Lifestyle Pharmacy, Bath), has developed a video in collaboration with Avon LPC discussing the use of PPE when giving vaccinations in a COVID-19 environment and has very kindly agreed to share this more widely.

This may be helpful for pharmacists planning for the upcoming flu season and offering vaccinations with the additional PPE required this season. You can access the short video [here](#).

Please also follow the guidance issued by your own organisations.

Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Part 1 2020-21 (Action)

A new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for the first part of 2020-21 was announced on the 13th July 2020

The focus of the PQS is ensuring community pharmacy contractors and their teams have put in place all reasonable measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting both themselves and the people using their services.

The funding made available for the scheme is £18.75m nationally, and all contractors meeting the requirements can claim a payment of £1,630 via the NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. Claims can be submitted between the 14th July 2020 and 23:59 on the 29th January 2021. Any residual funding not paid to contractors within the Part 1 scheme will be distributed as part of payments in the Part 2 2020/21 scheme. Payments will be made by the NHSBSA as soon as possible after a claim has been submitted, with, for example, any claims submitted by the 5th August 2020 being paid on the 1st September 2020.

Important Note:

You have to claim for completion of the whole checklist – there is no payment for completing part of it. The completion of Part 1 PQS is a gateway requirement to Part 2 PQS. Details can be found on the PSNC [website](#).

Initial information on the Part 2 PQS for 2020/21

An initial outline of requirements for Part 2 of the 2020/21 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) has been released.

While PSNC's work continues with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to finalise the arrangements for the Part 2 scheme, contractors have been provided with an early view of the domains and criteria that will need to be fulfilled to make a declaration in February 2021.

The scheme will formally commence in October 2020 and full details should be included in the September 2020 Drug Tariff. There will be five domains each with its own component criteria to achieve; all criteria in a domain must be completed to be able to claim a payment for that domain.

Read the criteria [here](#)

Upcoming events

Devon LPC is hosting two upcoming virtual events for community pharmacies and the PCN community pharmacy leads in Devon. Our pharmacy update event for the whole pharmacy team will give teams and contractors the latest tips and changes regarding the 2020/21 flu season, claiming the most from the current round as well as Phase 2 of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme, joint working with PCNs and the next steps from the Pharmacy Representation Wright Review.

For our Community Pharmacy PCN leads, there will be a continuation of the leadership training arc as well as the launch of a local toolkit for eRD to help support cross-sector PCN level events. We hope to host the Devon-wide pharmacy webinar on 9th September 2020 and the PCN lead webinar on 23rd September 2020. Keep your eyes peeled for details and event registration to follow!

Deadline Tracker – The Devon LPC deadline tracker is now available to view on the [LPC website](#). We hope you find it helpful, feedback welcome.

Free Healthy Lifestyles Support for Devon Residents

OneSmallStep is a free service funded by Devon County Council which supports Devon residents to improve their health and wellbeing. We can help clients to maintain a healthy weight, get more active, cut down on alcohol, quit smoking. We offer information, advice and guidance available online, by telephone and through face to face support*. Our practitioners support people 1:1, to take small steps to change to their lifestyle. They will help clients to set realistic goals and provide ongoing support to help clients to achieve them.

The service can be accessed by:

Self-referral: Call 01392 908 139 or e-mail hello@onesmallstep.org.uk

Smoking- text the word QUIT to the number 60777 (charged at standard text rate)

Or **professionals can refer** clients via our website: <https://onesmallstep.org.uk/refer>

*Face to face provision of services are subject to government guidance relating to Covid-19.

Follow One Small Step on Facebook and Instagram:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1stephealthy>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/onesmallstep_18/

Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS) and The Equality Act 2010

We have been made aware of the increasing demand for MDS packs purely for convenience from patients, carers, or other third parties, and it's not often easy to find all the information you need in one place when you need it.

Enclosed with this newsletter (and on our website [here](#)) you will find a guidance leaflet to provide some information about providing monitored dosage packs to patients. None of the information is new, but hopefully this leaflet will bring lots of useful information and references together in one place. All of the links in the leaflet are clickable on the website version.

The main aim of the leaflet is to support your pharmacy team on the ground. However, we would like to take this opportunity to remind pharmacy teams that the use of seven-day prescriptions should not be used as payment for providing MDS. The writing of seven day prescriptions should only be requested and undertaken when the prescriber has made a clinical decision that a patient needs to collect or receive their medicines in weekly instalments, for example where the prescriber has concern, for example, about a risk of overdosing, adherence or stockpiling. The Devon LPC and Devon LMC issued a joint statement about prescribing intervals in 2018.

Flu Service 2020/21

Making Every Contact Count

As you will no doubt be aware, this year's flu campaign will soon be upon us, and whilst we are still waiting for details of the service specification to be published, we hope that you have all started to plan for this season's campaign (Download the PSNC Briefing: Early Guidance on the 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service). This year it is more important than ever to protect those at risk from flu and community pharmacies will need to have effective plans in place to ensure that as many patients as possible are vaccinated. **Making every contact count this season and maximizing opportunities to vaccinate will be a key element to this.**

Option to Provide Out-Of-Hours NHS Flu Clinics

All contractors should have received an email from NHSE&I (to the pharmacy NHSmail address) regarding the potential option to open during the normal "out of hours" period (i.e. outside of contracted hours) to operate NHS flu clinics. Please respond by the 21st August 2020 to indicate whether this is something you are interested in providing

For Torbay Pharmacies Only - Commissioned To Provide Stop Smoking Services

The public health commissioners have updated the local smoking cessation service and have removed the paper claiming forms. From the 1st September 2020, service provision will be recorded solely on PharmOutcomes – you will NOT need to fill in the paper forms. Please destroy any existing reporting and claim forms. You may still use the other paper-based guidance given to you to support your consultation, but the reporting and invoice generation is now all being completed digitally.

There will be three services on PharmOutcomes in use for the Torbay Stop Smoking Service which have been updated to allow accurate data capture whilst still reducing paper workload; these are specified in detail below:-

Stage 1 – recruitment – EVERY client must be registered here; the other stages link to it

Stage 2 - NRT supply -this is filled in at each consultation (weeks 1,2,3,5,7,9,11); this is where you recorded what NRT you have provided. This will generate the NRT reimbursement. Week 4 provision must be recorded on the next stage – stage 3

Stage 3 - 4 Week Evaluation – this is where you record the smoking status (quit/not quit) – this generates the service payment for a quit.

Please see the guidance and updated service specification on the [Devon LPC website](#) for further information.

MSc Clinical Pharmacy at University of Exeter College of Medicine and Health

Did you know that the University of Exeter offers an MSc in Clinical Pharmacy? Did you know we also offer a Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing? Why not take advantage of this opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge for your current and future career in pharmacy?

Features of the course include:

- Patient case-based activities that reflect the challenges of current clinical practice
- Communication and clinical skills training within our [Clinical Skills Resource Centre](#)
- Ability to tailor assessments to your workplace roles
- Optional modules to personalise your learning
- Supportive, enthusiastic and clinically active tutors
- Flexible study – study modules individually or combine to achieve a Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or MSc.
- Potential to complete a Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing as a standalone qualification or as part of a Diploma or MSc.

Applications are now open for both courses. There are intakes for the MSc Clinical Pharmacy in September 2020 and January 2021. The next intake for the Independent Prescribing Course is January 2021.

For more information:

MSc: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/medicine/clinical-pharmacy-msc/>

Independent Prescribing: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/medicine/independent-prescribing/>

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