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*****Stop Press: We have just been notified of five places being available for independent prescribing courses for community pharmacists. We need to know by the 2nd October 2020 if they can be filled; please contact us on admin@devonlpc.org if you are interested to find out more *****

To all pharmacy contractors and their teams across Devon

In recognition of the extraordinary financial pressures in community pharmacy, exacerbated by the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Devon Committee members have examined the changes that we have made recently and can continue for the future, that reduce our expenditure but maintain our performance. An example of this is our move to virtual meetings for the committee.

As a consequence, I am very pleased to be able to announce that we have applied to the NHS BSA for a levy holiday of one month for our contractors, and you should see this reflected in your September or October payment.

Friday 25th September is World Pharmacists Day. NHS Devon CCG has written to all our amazing community pharmacy teams today to acknowledge and thank them for their efforts as part of the pandemic response; you'll find the letter attached to this newsletter.

The Medicines Optimisation team has been working closely with the Proud to Care recruitment marketing team at Devon County Council to include pharmacy as a featured career on their website. This is now live on the Proud to Care website [site](#).

Access to Summary Care Records

The Devon Sustainability and Transformation Programme (STP) set out an ambitious target to double the number of views of GP patient records across health and care settings (including NHS Hospital Trusts, Livewell South West, Devon Doctors, Hospices, and Community Pharmacists).

The overarching case for change is to provide better patient safety and care (by providing clinicians with the best possible information at the point of direct care to make the best possible decisions). As of July 2020 the number (of reported) views of GP patient records in Devon has increased from 18k (the previous year) to over 38k views. This directly supports better patient outcomes.

There has been an increase in Devon community pharmacist access to GP patient records via the Summary Care Records (SCR) over the same duration by about 10%. Hence there is still a lot of room for improvement. So as we have highlighted previously, although there are no revolutionary developments to report, it is always worthwhile just thinking '**Can SCR help me provide a better service here?**' as you help your patients each day.

If you have any question or require advice as to how to make better use of the SCR please contact us at the Secretariat office.

Here are a couple of useful links:

SCR AI <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/summary-care-records-scr/additional-information-in-scr>

PSNC SCR info <https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-it/electronic-health-records/summary-care-record-scr-home/>

Hold the date!

On Monday the 9th November 2020 we have planned a virtual Community Pharmacy Event including our Annual General Meeting, starting at 7.30 pm for all of our pharmacy teams. More details to follow!

. GP Community Pharmacist Consultation Service

We are really excited by the recent announcement that the GP Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (GP CPCS) is being rolled out as a national service from the Autumn. The service is an extension to the already existing 111 CPCS service, and will enable GP practices to send referrals for minor illness to your pharmacy. We have been running a pilot as part of the Pharmacy Integration Programme across Devon with 5 practices and a number of pharmacies since January. The pilots continue and we are expecting further information on the national rollout plans in due course.

New Advanced Service Opportunity - Contractor guidance on the Hepatitis C Testing Service

The Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service is the second new Advanced Service to be added to the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). The service was originally trailed as part of the 5-year CPCF agreement and its implementation was delayed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The service launched on the 1 September 2020.

The service offers a Hepatitis C antibody test in the pharmacy to people who inject drugs (PWID) who are not currently accessing treatment services (e.g. for the management of addiction to opioids). Where people test positive for hepatitis C antibodies, they will be referred for a confirmatory test, followed by treatment, where appropriate.

Any pharmacy that meets the service requirements can provide the service, but it will be of most interest to contractors that provide a locally commissioned needle and syringe programme (NSP) service, with a sufficient number of clients. We are working with the local stakeholders to support the successful delivery of this service and will be in touch shortly with relevant information. In the meantime, if you wish to discuss the opportunity or have any questions relating to the service please contact admin@devonlpc.org.

PSNC has published a Briefing providing guidance for community pharmacy contractors and their teams on the Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service which can be found on the PSNC website.

COVID-19 – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Portal

In order to be prepared, NHS England and NHS Improvement encourage all pharmacies to sign up for the national PPE portal, if not done so already, as an important emergency supply route. Pharmacies will need to do this via their original invitation email that would have been sent to your pharmacy shared NHS Mail inbox. Further information including when to use the portal, order limits and delivery is available on the PSNC website.

Public Health Campaigns

This winter pharmacies will need to take part in two health campaigns – the first campaign is a public facing campaign to encourage people to get vaccinated against flu and begins in early October.

The national flu campaign resources will be delivered to all pharmacies in early October. Please register [here](#) to download any additional resources and keep an eye out for the postman!

A second campaign, which will focus on the management of winter illnesses, is expected to take place in the New Year; further details will be provided on the timings of this campaign as soon as they are confirmed.

NHS Flu 2020-21 Engagement Training – September 2020

Virtual Outcomes has released their latest e-Learning module around flu engagement. More information about this module and other available modules can be found on the Virtual Outcomes website [here](#).

Devon LPC currently provides free training for pharmacy teams through Virtual Outcomes to deliver a series of online training events throughout the year.

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

Important Notice - Primary Care Networks and PCN Community Pharmacy Leads

We currently have a vacancy for a PCN Pharmacy lead within the Mid Devon Healthcare PCN. This covers the Crediton and North Tawton area, There are two domains in the 2020-21 PQS part 2 that rely on there being a pharmacy lead for ALL contractors to be able to claim these points and monies. We have sent out an email about this vacancy to all the pharmacies within the PCN - If you want any further information on this role please contact us on admin@devonlpc.org.

The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) part 1 2020-21 was announced on the 13th July 2020. Claims can be submitted via the MYS portal between 14th July 2020 and 23.59 on the 29th January 2021 but we would recommend doing this as soon as you can. Completion of PQS Part 1 is a gateway to the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) part 2 details of which have also now been published.

We will be providing you with support to help you to meet the criteria where we can and share local information. There are two PCN domains, Prevention and Business Resilience that require local pharmacy teams to work collaboratively with the PCN Community Pharmacy Leads. Please be aware that you may be contacted by your PCN Pharmacy Lead in the near future so please continue to regularly check your shared pharmacy NHS Mailbox so you don't miss any messages.

Initially we have prepared a summary document to help you to support you and your pharmacy team to complete the required training for PQS Part 2, which is attached to the newsletter.

Drug quota issues and shortages reporting

Recently, PSNC launched a quota issues shortage [reporting tool](#) for pharmacy teams to feedback their experiences in obtaining stock of drugs that are subject to wholesaler or manufacturer-led drug quota allocation restrictions. Since June 2020, PSNC has gathered over **320** contractor reports from 140 unique contractors for over **60** drugs reported to be affected by manufacturer and/or wholesaler-led quota restrictions which are shared with the Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply Team, Healthcare Distribution Association (HDA), Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) and specific manufacturers/wholesalers of the reported drug(s).

PSNC has used these findings as evidence to support further investigation into both individual and wider supply issues created by wholesaler/manufacturer drug quota allocation processes and is seeking improvements to these. Any new or known drug shortages can be reported to PSNC using the reporting tool The reports often provide a first indicator to a broader supply issue and allow DHSC to focus on any newly reported lines to investigate what is contributing to the reported delays experienced in supply.

PSNC is aware that drug shortages also continue to hinder pharmacy teams' efforts to supply drugs in a timely manner. The DHSC Medicine Supply Team provides a monthly update on potential supply issues affecting both primary and secondary care and this update is uploaded on the [Specialist Pharmacy Services \(SPS\) website](#). Individuals with an NHSmail account can register and log-in to the SPS website to gain access to the latest updates.

Direct links to the relevant tools are below:

Quota issues: <https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/supply-issues-feedback/report-quota-issues/>

Shortages: <https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/shortage-reporting-form/>

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE www.devonlpc.org

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Devon Healthy Living Pharmacies – Useful Signposting Information for pharmacy team members, patients and the public

Anyone can now self-check risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes by using [Diabetes UK's 'know your risk' tool](https://riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start). (<https://riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start>)

Before the Covid-19 outbreak, the programme only accepted patients with Blood Test result of Haemoglobin A1c (HbA1C) : 42 – 47 mmol/mol or Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) : 5.5 – 6.9 mmol/L taken in the last 24 months. In which case, people can refer themselves to the programme by calling on **0345 999 0003** or filling out the form on <http://devon.cc/dpp>

Rapid access to the Diabetes Prevention Programme is being rolled out following research that revealed those living with diabetes face a significantly higher risk of dying with COVID-19.

If the score indicates you are at risk of developing type 2 Diabetes, you will be directed to join the Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Programme. The programme is free, and currently delivered with remote Zoom sessions or digital only option to support you in eating healthily, become more active and increase general well-being.

Watch [Harry's story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dWWVv3At8&feature=youtu.be) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dWWVv3At8&feature=youtu.be>)

