



Do You Know That You Could Be Missing Out?	1	Deadline Tracker November 2020	2
COVID-19	1	Central Alerting System Send Test Email	3
Update training for Smoking Cessation Advisors in the Devon area	1	Service Finder for Healthcare professionals	3
Pandemic Delivery Service	2	Recommendations on Prescribing Shared	3
PPE Supplies	2	Invitations to Webinars	4
Community Pharmacist Consultation Service	2	Devon LPC Contact Details	4

Do you know that you could be missing out?

Devon pharmacies have so far delivered just shy of 47,000 flu vaccinations across the County. This is a fantastic effort by you all, and our thanks go out to you all for your contribution. We have noticed that some pharmacies in Devon have not yet recorded any flu vaccinations and while this may be a conscious decision you have taken not to participate in this PQS domain, we wanted to highlight that within the 2020/21 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Domain 4 – Prevention – is worth 15% of the total PQS claim. To put figures on it, that’s a minimum of £540 if your pharmacy is in band 3 and £720 for band 4.

As with each domain, you need to meet all the criteria in that domain in order to claim the points (and payment) for that domain.

To claim for Domain 4, Primary Care Network - Prevention, a pharmacy would need to show that it has delivered at least one flu vaccine for a patient aged 65 and over. This can be evidenced by the number of vaccines you have administered to eligible patients between 1st September 2020 and 31st January 2021. Exact wording of the all the PQS criteria is available at <https://psnc.org.uk/pqs> or please do contact us at Devon LPC with any specific queries about this.

For both Domain 4 and Domain 5 – Primary Care Network - Business Continuity there is an expectation that pharmacy teams will work collaboratively with other primary care providers and have participated in group discussions organised by their PCN lead.

The LPC is supporting a number of our PCN Community Pharmacy leads in setting up virtual Zoom meetings for their pharmacy networks and some of you have already taken part in local discussions. Please make sure you regularly check your generic pharmacy NHS mail so that you don’t miss any communication from your PCN lead, one of which could be an invitation to a zoom meeting for which you need to register, and then miss out on funding. If you are unsure which PCN you are in, [please check here](https://devonlpc.org/primary-care-networks/) (<https://devonlpc.org/primary-care-networks/>)

The following PCNs have Zoom meetings organized: Look out for an email from your PCN Community Pharmacy Lead which an invitation

- 18 November – Torridge PCN and North Devon Coastal PCN
- 19 November – Mayflower PCN
- 25 November – Baywide PCN, Brixham & Paignton PCN and Torquay PCN
- 26 November – Exeter City PCN and NEXUS PCN
- 1 December – South Dartmoor & Totnes PCN

COVID-19

Updated Community Pharmacy Standard Operating Procedure

NHS England and Improvement (NHS&I) have published an updated Community Pharmacy Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Changes are highlighted in yellow in the document. It sets out general principles for the delivery of services during the COVID-19 pandemic. A key amendment in the guidance provides community pharmacies with the option to work behind closed doors, although this is only up to 2.5 hours per day outside of core mandated hours; note that you are still expected to be accessible to patients if required in the event of an emergency when working behind a closed door. [You can download the full Community Pharmacy SOP here.](#)

Update training for Smoking Cessation Advisors in the Devon County Council area.

There are now dates available to book for 2021. If you have members of your team who need to attend we would recommend booking as soon as possible as these events tend to be oversubscribed.

<https://bookwhen.com/onesmallstep>

Pandemic Delivery Service

The Pandemic Delivery Service restarted on the 5th November 2020 and will be commissioned until the 3rd December 2020. Contractors will receive the essential service payment for the days the service is active and will be able to claim payment to deliver a prescription to a clinically extremely vulnerable patient (excluding Distance Selling Pharmacies).

NHSE&I has identified two additional groups of people who should now be considered as clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 – adults with stage 5 chronic kidney disease and adults with Down's syndrome. More information can be found here – <https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/pandemic-delivery-service/>

PPE supplies

The Government's PPE portal can be used by community pharmacies to obtain all the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) they need; the supplies will be provided **free of charge**.

Community pharmacies should have received an email invitation to register to access the service, which will have been sent to their NHSmail shared mailbox. If you cannot find the email, you can still create an account by visiting the portal and using your NHSmail shared mailbox email address to register.

Even though your NHSmail shared mailbox has recently been updated to have the new **shorter primary email address**, pharmacy data was uploaded to the portal some weeks ago, before this change was made to NHSmail by NHS Digital. Contractors registering for the portal access must therefore **use the longer original shared mailbox email address (in the format nhspharmacy.location.pharmacynameODScode@nhs.net)**. Emails sent to a pharmacy's original longer NHSmail shared mailbox address will still be delivered to the mailbox. **Visit the portal** (<https://nhs-ppe.co.uk/customer/authentication>) Call the customer service team on **0800 876 6802** if you have any questions about using the PPE portal. The team is available from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week, to help resolve your queries.

Further information available on PSNC website - <https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/personal-protective-equipment-ppe/>

Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)

GP referrals to CPCS from 1st November 2020 – the CPCS service specification has now been updated to include minor illness referrals from GPs as well as referrals from the NHS 111 service. Before GPs can make referrals, there must be local discussions to agree how this will work.

At present, preparations to support rollout of the GP referral pathway locally are being undertaken by the NHSE&I regional team, and we will be providing further information on how contractors can get involved in due course. Pharmacies which are already registered to provide CPCS do not need to re-register to receive referrals from GPs as this is an extension to the existing advanced service.

Before GPs can make referrals there must be local discussions to agree how this will work. The discussions will involve all key stakeholders including the LPC.

In the meantime, further information is available [here](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/gp-referrals-to-cpcs-essential-information-for-contractors/) (<https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/gp-referrals-to-cpcs-essential-information-for-contractors/>) including what contractors can do to start to prepare for local rollout.

CPCS Training Available – CPD for pharmacists is now available to support effective patient-facing consultations and clinical assessments for a range of common minor illness. See the RPS website [here](https://www.rpharms.com/events/cpcs-events/cpcs-information) for information. (<https://www.rpharms.com/events/cpcs-events/cpcs-information>)

Deadline Tracker – November 2020

It can be tough to keep track of all the different contractual deadlines. To help, we've compiled a list of the most important ones. **Deadline Tracker November 2020** (<https://devonlpc.org/pharmacy-resources/resources-g-l/deadline-tracker/>) Keep these dates in mind, and you'll avoid any last minute panic.

CAS Sends Test Email to Community Pharmacies

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA) has sent a test Central Alerting System (CAS) email to each pharmacy's shared NHSmail account.

From Monday 9th November 2020, **contractors are required to register their pharmacy's shared NHSmail account with the MHRA**. A bulk upload into the CAS of pharmacies' NHSmail email addresses was supported by NHS Digital, at the request of NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), so the majority of contractors could meet this new requirement without taking any action.

Please check that your pharmacy or pharmacies have each received their email from CAS and if not, ensure each pharmacy has a shared NHSmail account and this is registered with MHRA for CAS alerts.

If you did not receive this email and you need to register a pharmacy shared NHSmail account with MHRA for CAS alerts, you should email safetyalerts@mhra.gov.uk.

Service Finder for healthcare professionals

Get accurate service information quickly through the [NHS Service finder](https://finder.directoryofservices.nhs.uk/#/login). (<https://finder.directoryofservices.nhs.uk/#/login>)

The free online tool enables healthcare professionals to search for different types of service, look up a service by name or address, or use clinical keywords.

The service is clinically reviewed to provide up to date information from the Directory of Services (DoS) and NHS.uk which can also signpost the patient to self-help and finding the right appropriate service.

This includes non-public contact numbers and information on who is eligible for the service, along with patient referral information,

Quick access to real-time service information means

- more time available for patient care
- increased awareness of the range of services available
- the ability to shift to lower acuity services where appropriate
- Supporting admission avoidance and easing the pressure on emergency departments in order to spread demand across the healthcare system more evenly. This is a key element in supporting the 111 First programme and impending winter pressures.

You can also access support materials through the [Help](https://finder.directoryofservices.nhs.uk/#/help) link (<https://finder.directoryofservices.nhs.uk/#/help>) in the website header which includes a 'What is NHS Service finder?' video. You can also view a short promotional video or visit a You Tube channel [here](#).

Register with your NHS email address and get immediate access to the service once you have verified your email.

Recommendations on prescribing shared following review – recently circulated to general practice

Following a recent external review of incidents involving people with Mental health problems in Devon, there are 2 recommendations that are important for primary care attention and action.

1. The CCG to remind GPs of the need to follow up patients where there has been an increase of antidepressant medication and for follow up within 2-4 weeks.
2. The CCG should remind all GP practices of the need to adhere to safe prescribing practice where there is a known risk of deliberate self-harm by overdose.

Please see below for additional information to support prescribers:

To support recommendation 1),

When patients are started on antidepressants and not considered to be at increased risk of suicide, normally see them after 2 weeks, see them regularly thereafter, for example at intervals of 2 to 4 weeks in the first 3 months, and then at longer intervals if response is good.

When a patient is started on antidepressants who is considered to present an increased suicide risk or is younger than 30 years, they should normally be seen after 1 week and frequently thereafter as appropriate until the risk is no longer considered clinically important.

After antidepressants are first prescribed, prescribers should check that the drug is being taken and at the prescribed dose.

The reference for this advice, can be found [HERE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg90). (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg90>)

The draft NICE guideline ([HERE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/GID-CGWAVE0725/documents/short-version-of-draft-guideline)) (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/GID-CGWAVE0725/documents/short-version-of-draft-guideline>) suggests that when patients obtain no or limited response to initial treatment, they should be offered more support by increasing the frequency and length of appointments, and where therapy is changed or dose increased the person's response should be assessed after 2-4 weeks of that change.

For South & West formulary guidance - [antidepressant review and treatment continuation](#)

For North & East formulary guidance - [antidepressant review and treatment continuation](#)

To support recommendation 2),

In patients who are considered at risk of self-poisoning (or the patient's relative is considered at risk of self-poisoning, living with the patient), healthcare professionals should prescribe, whenever possible, those drugs which, whilst effective for their intended use, are least dangerous in overdose, and should consider prescribing fewer tablets at any one time.

The reference for this advice, can be found [HERE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG16) (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG16>)

Antimicrobial Stewardship Webinar

The community pharmacy PQS content for 2020/21 has an amended Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) related content, and you can read the full details in the Drug Tariff on page 168 so please [click here](#)

World Antibiotic Awareness Week starts on 18th November and the NHS South West Region would like to take this opportunity to support the implementation of this PQS requirement, and deliver an AMS learning session to support community pharmacy.

To join the webinar please follow the instructions below:

- Date: **Wednesday 18th November 2020**
- Time: **13:30 – 14:30**

[To join the webinar please click here](#) which will be recorded for later viewing

Outbreak Management, Infection Control & Trace and Trace Webinar

A webinar to provide an up-date on Outbreak Management, Infection Control and Test and Trace which will be specifically targeted for Community Pharmacy and Ophthalmic Contractors in the South West. This follows a number of concerns raised with regards to managing an outbreak within a primary care setting, the webinar will also include a session on the test and trace process.

To join the webinar please follow the instructions below:

Date: **Wednesday 18th November 2020**

Time: **12:30 – 13:30**

[Please click here to take you to the webinar](#) which will be recorded for later viewing

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE www.devonlpc.org

Chief Officer:	Sue Taylor	Email: sue@devonlpc.org
Office Manager:	Kathryn Jones	Email: Kathrynj@devonlpc.org
Service Development & Implementation Lead	Anna White	Email: anna@devonlpc.org
Director of Strategy	David Bearman	Email: dbearman1@aol.com
Professional Support Pharmacist:	Tom Kallis	Email: Tom@devonlpc.org

Devon LPC Secretariat, Deer Park Business Park, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7XX

Telephone: 01392 834022