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Urgent action needed by NHS smartcard users whose card is due for renewal on 27th June 2022

NHS Digital expect a large influx of NHS smartcard renewal requests as 140,000 cards are due for renewal on 27 June 2022.

Affected users have received automated messages on authentication telling them that they had one month to renew. If you have received this message because your NHS smartcard expires on 27 June 2022, please self-renew as soon as possible. If NHS Digital do not manage to increase the rate of renewal now, it will inevitably result in a rush of users requiring smartcard renewals through the [Care Identity Service](#) with increasing urgency. This could lead to delays in access to systems and services, due to backlogs of renewals being requested for processing by Registration Authorities. Guidance on how to self-renew can be found on the NHS Digital website. For any other queries please contact iampatforms@nhs.net

Any impact on the Care Identity Service will not affect authentication and access to clinical systems for users with a valid smartcard. [Guidance on how to self-renew can be found on the NHS Digital website.](#)

Implementation of Shared Care Records in community pharmacy

[Guidance is available to aid the implementation of Shared Care Records in community pharmacy, community and ambulance](#) services, as well as downloadable [comms materials and case studies](#). A [webinar on 23 June from 2pm – 3pm](#), will highlight the key benefits for the community pharmacy sector in accessing shared care records, as well as addressing some of the barriers to implementation, providing examples of areas which have already started implementation and encouraging feedback from participants on the guidance.

Hypertension Case Finding

The hypertension case finding advanced service is taking off in pharmacies across Devon, with pharmacy teams working hard to identify patients with undiagnosed hypertension. As this service ramps up, there have been some teething issues regarding exclusion criteria and referrals back into practice.

Please note that any patient already receiving regular blood pressure monitoring in any health care setting is excluded from the service unless they have been explicitly referred by the GP practice. This means that patients already diagnosed with hypertension or other cardiovascular (including diabetes) and respiratory conditions which include annual BP monitoring through their registered GP practice will be automatically excluded from the service unless their GP has referred them directly into the pharmacy service.

The appropriate escalation for patients can be found in the service pathway at <https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Pathway-flow-diagram-ABPM-pathways-combined.pdf>

Please note that only patients with clinic blood pressures over 180/120mmHg or ambulatory blood pressure readings of 150/95mmHg need urgent same day escalation. For the full service spec please refer to the document at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/advanced-service-specification-nhs-community-pharmacy-hypertension-case-finding-advanced-service/>

Prior to provision of the Hypertension Case-Finding Service, community pharmacy contractors are required to engage with local general practices and/or PCN colleagues to make them aware that the pharmacy is participating in this service.

Contractors are reminded that PSNC has produced a [GP letter/email service](#) notification template and a Briefing for general practice teams to support engagement about this service.

VirtualOutcomes

Did you know, AF is linked to 1 in 5 Strokes? An online course looking at AF to raise awareness in the pharmacy team has been launched, which is free to all community pharmacy teams in Devon. This is also linked to the Hypertension Case-Finding service; however, we appreciate it is not explicitly funded, however if the pharmacist detects AF during the service, they need to know what to do. Also, our pharmacy teams are dispensing anti-coagulants and this course provides useful information about how they work and how to best support patients.

This course should therefore be used in conjunction with the VirtualOutcomes Hypertension Case-Finding modules.

Also, don't forget the **GP Surgery Hypertension Case-Finding service module**. This is designed to be shared with your local surgeries to give them an overview of the service and how they can best engage their local pharmacies. Please use this course like you have used the GP-CPCS modules. <https://www.workcast.com/register?cpak=9444831786672923>

RSG: Proposal and Contractor Voting (Voting closes: 11:59 pm Friday 17th June 2022)

The Review steering Group (RSG) have been working to ensure that the support and services offered by PSNC and the LPCs are fit for the future.

The finalised proposal has been published and can be viewed [here](#).

Contractors are now being asked to either accept or reflect the proposals. An online voting portal is open until 11:59 pm on Friday 17th June 2022.

All contractors should now have received their unique link for the online voting portal from takepart@cesvotes.com to allow them to cast their vote on the proposals for the future of PSNC and LPCs. This has been sent to the shared NHSmail email inbox of each pharmacy premises or to a nominated head office contact.

The vote asks contractors to either accept or reject the proposals in their entirety. The ballot question is as follows: **Do you accept the proposals setting the direction for pharmacy representation?**

New! NHSE/I Health and Wellbeing Webinar

NHS England and NHS Improvement would like to invite all primary care colleagues including pharmacy teams to join an informative online session on **30th June at 5:00pm - 6:30pm**.

This session will be a great opportunity to hear about current health and wellbeing support offers available to colleagues working across all primary care sectors.

Please use the link below to sign up, and note the date in your diary;

<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/primary-care-engagement-event---understanding-what-our-colleagues-need>

Health Education England pharmacy technician workforce webinar. Monday 27 June 2022 (10am repeated at 7pm)

Health Education England (HEE) have announced further funding to contribute towards the training of pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians (PTPTs). They are looking to work with employers to support the development of PTPT apprenticeships.



How much funding is available? £46,099 per PTPT over the 2-year training period as part of either a single sector community pharmacy or cross-sector integrated programme. Funding is intended to contribute to the cost of developing and running a two-year programme and may be used to contribute towards the cost of salary, educational supervision or setting up educational infrastructure. The apprentice can be someone new to your team or an existing team member to upskill.

What do I need to do to be eligible for funding? Be able to provide educational supervision from a General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registered pharmacy professional and complete a short on-line application with an overview of your proposed training programme.

What support is provided by HEE? Support from a dedicated HEE pharmacy programme facilitator to support development of your

- training programme and provide guidance throughout the 2-year training period.
- Employer network meetings to share experience, practice and resources.
- A range of resources such as examples and templates of job adverts and learning plans.

For more information on the programme and funding please sign up for one of the webinars:

[Link to registration form for MORNING 10am webinar](#)

[Link to registration form for EVENING 7pm webinar](#)

HEE event flyer [download here](#).

Data Security Protection (DSP) Toolkit 2021-2022

As you will already be aware from PSNC updates and numerous reminders you will be receiving from NHS Digital DSPT Team the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) for 2021-22 must be completed and published by 30 June 2022. PSNC held a webinar on Tuesday 24th May at 7.00pm to help community pharmacy contractors with completing the Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2021/22 which is available to view on demand along with numerous resources. [Data Security and Protection Toolkit Workshop now on-demand - PSNC website](#)

Devon LPC Community Pharmacy Masterclass

Back by popular demand and after long months of virtual events, Devon LPC is hitting the road again with jam-packed masterclass roadshows for all our community pharmacy teams across Devon. These face-to-face events will have something for everyone, with a range of speakers delivering sessions on important pharmacy services, detailing how to deliver excellent care to patients and how to provide financial security for contractors. GP CPCS, NMS, Primary Care and the hypertension service will all be covered in this whistle-stop tour, alongside time for you to catch up with your peers and discuss any local hot topics in facilitated groups.

We welcome you back to our face-to-face events to be together again and maximize our potential as a pharmacy workforce.

Further details of dates and how to book a place are on the Devon LPC website. [Devon LPC – Masterclass Events – Devon](#) or see the enclosed flyer.

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Training

We have arranged a fantastic and competitively priced training package with ECG to enable pharmacists to provide both the national and private flu services as well as many other vaccination services, e.g., COVID-19 or travel vaccinations. Places are limited to a maximum of 12 people per session and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For more information about the dates and how to book you can find these details on the enclosed flyer or the LPC website: <https://devonlpc.org/our-news/nhs-community-pharmacy-flu-vaccination-training-including-basic-life-support/>

SHINE!

We know that all our pharmacists and pharmacy teams in Devon are incredible. We'd like you to shout out about your great examples of where you have made a difference to patient care, developed a good strong relationship with your local practice(s), supported your local community – let us have your stories.

Please let us know about your successes and achievements, of your pharmacists and team members so that we can share them with our wider audiences and stakeholders.

We will present you with a £20 book voucher for every story published. Don't be shy, let your star(s) shine!

Pharmacy First Minor Ailment Services

The CCG recently sent some comms out encouraging pharmacy contractors to sign up to provide the pharmacy first services in Devon.

The Community Pharmacy Minor Ailments Service (Pharmacy First) gives patients access to self-care advice for the treatment of specific ailments and, where appropriate, medicines without needing to visit their GP practice.

This provides an alternative location from which patients can seek advice and treatment, rather than via a prescription from their GP, out of hours (OOH) provider, walk-in centre or emergency department.

The specific ailments currently are:

- Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) – PGD for the provision of Nitrofurantoin M/R capsules in women aged 16-65
- Impetigo – clinical protocol for the provision of Hydrogen Peroxide cream
- Mild Inflammatory Skin Conditions (bites and stings, mild dermatitis and eczema) – PGD for the provision of Hydrocortisone 1% cream in patients >1year old including for use on the face

If your pharmacy is signed up to deliver the service, please remember that you can link patients referred to you under CPCS and use this service if applicable. For example, you could advise your local GP practice that has just gone live with GPCPCS that you are signed up and able to deliver UTI treatment for women aged 16-64, with 2 or more symptoms from the list. Or, that you can provide Hydrocortisone 1% cream or ointment for use on the face for acute dermatitis, mild eczema or insect bite reactions, which is seasonal and probably quite common at the moment!

The GP practice could start referring those patients to you under GPCPCS, and as part of the CPCS consultation the pharmacist could supply the relevant medicine under the PGD or protocol – and you would be able to claim service fees for both GP CPCS & the Pharmacy First service and your patient is happy that their problem has been resolved.

If you do not have a pharmacist who has read and signed the PGDs on the premises at any time, please ensure you are communicating this with your GP practice, so they know to not send referrals for Pharmacy First conditions to you. Communication is key to the success of the services.

You can find all of the documents relating to Pharmacy First services here : <https://devonccg.nhs.uk/health-services/pharmacy-services/community-pharmacy-minor-ailments-service-pharmacy-first>

If there is any other support you feel you need to be able to provide this service effectively and start increasing the numbers please get in touch with Anna (Anna@devonlpc.org)

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