

Community Pharmacy Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB News

A newsletter for Community Pharmacy Teams in Nottingham,
Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw

Purpose of this newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to share news from across the health system with Community Pharmacy Teams. Please share this newsletter with everyone in your pharmacy team including any locum staff.

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Patients Eligible for covid treatment

There are now additional cohorts of patients eligible for treatment if they have symptoms of covid and test positive. Treatment has to be given within a narrow window of time so it is important that eligible patients can access tests in advance of symptoms and know who to contact if they do test positive for covid.

Actions pharmacies need to take:

- **All** Pharmacies and the pharmacy team need to know who is eligible so they can provide correct advice – please see the Community Pharmacy England factsheet which can be found here; [We're all community pharmacy \(cpe.org.uk\)](https://www.cpe.org.uk)

- If you are a Community Pharmacy signed up to supply LFD tests, please make sure all of the team are familiar with the specification and who is eligible and cascade this to all staff and locums. The specification can be viewed here [NHS England » NHS lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatment: service specification](#) and the Community Pharmacy England factsheet on eligible patients is here [We're all community pharmacy \(cpe.org.uk\)](#)
- If you are a Community Pharmacy **not** signed up to LFT tests there is a service finder that you and patients can use to find a local pharmacy which can be viewed here [Find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#). Please share this information with all of the pharmacy team.
- If an eligible patient has symptoms and tested positive, please ask them to contact the CMDU (Covid Medicine Delivery Unit) as soon as possible.

The telephone contact details for CMDU are 01158 462 392, available 7 days a week between 8am and 4pm. Outside of these times patients can contact NHS 111 if they have concerns that will not wait until the following day.

Sign-up process for the autumn/winter 24/25 COVID-19 vaccination service

The information below is in from the NHSE Primary Care Bulletin and has also been sent to pharmacy nhs net email addresses.

“All primary care providers that wish to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination service from their healthcare premises from 1 September 2024 must sign-up to do so by completing an online form on the [NHS Business Service Authority webpage](#) by 23:59 on 27 June 2024. Potential providers should read the [Contractual Agreements](#) and [Site Sign-up Process Guidance](#), which outline the process and deadlines, before submitting a response”.

Pharmacy First Update

Across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB from February to March there were over 6000 7 clinical pathways consultations in Community Pharmacy. The most accessed clinical pathway in this time period was Acute sore throat. Thank you so much again for the difference you are making to the population of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB.

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) have launched a new Common clinical conditions e-learning programme which provides practical tips and advice on managing over 50 different common conditions. This learning could be useful for Pharmacy first especially the minor illness referrals. Please log into your CPPE for more information.

The CPPE face-to-face [NHS Pharmacy First: Clinical assessment and examination skills full-day workshop](#) is now available for booking at locations across England too.

Post Event Messages

This information has come from the NHS England “Patient Safety notification for contractors using the EMIS PharmOutcomes IT System”.

NHS England has been made aware of a technical issue with service notifications (electronic post event messages) not being sent to some GP practices following clinical service consultations in community pharmacy for a range of services. Most community pharmacy IT supplier service level agreements (SLAs) require notifications to be sent to the patient’s registered general practice within 24-48 hours. Ordinarily, notifications will be sent by secure email where a GP practice has a confirmed email address. However, in the absence of a valid email address for the practice, the pharmacist (or other pharmacy team member) must ensure the notification is sent via an alternative method e.g. via email or manually printed and delivered. This requirement is described within the relevant advanced service specification. NHS England is now reviewing the issue and backlog of notifications and will provide additional information to support pharmacies in managing any historic messages. We hope to share this next week. EMIS PharmOutcomes has also contacted system users directly through an in-system message.

Action for contractors

While this review is taking place, NHS England asks contractors to:

1. From 24 June 2024 onwards, where there is no valid email address for a GP practice, please ensure any new notifications are sent by an alternative method to the GP practice and confirm this by clicking “Sent Manually” within EMIS PharmOutcomes to avoid adding to a backlog of electronic notifications.
2. Please await further guidance on managing historic unactioned messages. Please do not action any historic notifications at this stage.

Podcasts from the Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

The tenth episode of the APC podcast: [PILS Episode 10 \(May 2024\): SGLT2i in Chronic kidney disease](#) is available on Spotify, and can also be found on the APC website in the [Podcast section](#) or on Teamnet. For this episode, the guests were Dr Catherine Byrne, Renal Consultant at Nottingham University Hospitals and Vimbayi Mushayi, Specialist Interface Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist for Nottinghamshire ICB.

The latest updates from APC and the Interface team can be accessed in webinar format on the APC website at this link: [Webinars - Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee \(nottsapc.nhs.uk\)](#). The May update includes information about updated Vitamin D guidance.

Legislation change for Pharmacy Technicians to supply medicines under PGDs

New legislation has been introduced allowing pharmacy technicians to supply and administer medicines under Patient Group Directions (PGDs). However, it is important to note that is **no immediate change in the provision of community pharmacy services**. Community Pharmacy England will be involved in any

negotiations and, then where agreed, the relevant service directions and specifications would be amended first.

Shortages

The Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have a supply tool which you can look at here <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/medicines-supply-tool/> Registration is required but is free.

Emergency prohibition of GnRH Analogues for puberty suppression for gender dysphoria and incongruence

The government announced on 29th May an emergency prohibition of GnRH Analogues for puberty suppression for children under 18 years old. You can read more information about this here [New restrictions on puberty blockers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-puberty-blockers)

Topiramate (Topamax): introduction of new safety measures, including a Pregnancy Prevention Programme

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have issued an alert, titled as above on 20th June. Please read the requirements on the MHTA website at this link; [Topiramate \(Topamax\): introduction of new safety measures, including a Pregnancy Prevention Programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/alerts/topiramate-topamax-introduction-of-new-safety-measures-including-a-pregnancy-prevention-programme)

Questions and feedback about this newsletter

If you have any questions, please email the ICB Community Pharmacy Clinical lead; Rebecca Dickenson using the email address Rebecca.Dickenson7@nhs.net.

Please send feedback as it helps to tailor this newsletter for you and your team.