

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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Pharmacy First Update

As some of you will have seen, the advertising campaign from NHS England regarding Pharmacy First has restarted and hopefully you will see an increased uptake in this service. Nottingham ICB is also working with a number of GP practices to increase referrals and pharmacies near by may find they are contacted about numbers that they can manage for referrals.

The Specialist Pharmacy Service now have a Pharmacy First podcast series including expert speakers to debunk some of the clinical myths. You can access this on this link: [Pharmacy First podcast series – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

The Specialist Pharmacy Service website also has a patient group directive section which you can access here [Patient Group Directions – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#) . Patient Group Directives (PGD) are a legal mechanism to allow the supply of prescription only medicine without a prescription and hence it is important that all of the criteria in a PGD are adhered too, for example only providing medication to the age included in the PGD.

Community Pharmacy PCN Engagement leads

NHS England have provided some funding for Community Pharmacy PCN Engagement leads for 12 months.

In Nottingham we are planning for four leads to work in a place-based manner for approximately 15 hours a month, so one in City, one in the South, one in Mid Notts and one in Bassetlaw. Three have come into role as introduced below.



Ashton Craig from Reception Manager at Plains view surgery will be undertaking this function for the South Place.



Ankish Patel Chief Pharmacist & Head of PCN Workforce will be undertaking this function for City Place,

Katrina Bird Community Pharmacy PCN Engagement lead for the Bassetlaw place of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB



"I have been with Larwood Health Partnership for nearly 20 years,. My experience spans from front-line reception duties and managing electronic referrals to serving as a PA and supporting the Management Team".

Work continues to identify a Community Pharmacy PCN engagement lead in Mid Notts.

These leads will work within targeted areas to help with relationship building between GP practices and Community Pharmacies and work on uptake of Community Pharmacy, Pharmacy First services including the oral contraception service and hypertension case finding service.

[Methotrexate Incident](#)

We have been made aware of a recent "near miss" event in Nottinghamshire.

A script was issued by a GP practice for 10mg methotrexate tablets, the dose prescribed FOUR tablets to be taken once weekly which is over recommended maximum doses. This was then dispensed by a community pharmacy.

The intended dose was 10mg once weekly, the patient should have been prescribed FOUR 2.5mg tablets once weekly.

A background PCN safety search picked up the error and the patient was contacted prior to taking.

Following this we would like to take the opportunity to remind all colleagues that methotrexate is a high-risk drug so it is especially important to be checking and querying with the prescriber where appropriate, doses, frequency, (must **only be once a week** for non- cancer treatment) and relevant MHRA guidance. More information is available in the BNF which you can access here [Methotrexate | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)

In addition, the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Prescribing formulary stipulates that primary care prescribers should only be prescribing as **2.5mg tablets** to reduce the risk of overdose. If you are receiving prescriptions from GP practices or other primary care providers for 10mg tablets, please query with the prescriber. The Nottinghamshire formulary can be accessed here [Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee Formulary](#)

New City and County wide Sexual Health Service



Sexual Health Services Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (SHSNN) launched on 1st October 2024, bringing together services in the city and across the county, with the aim of delivering a more streamlined, consistent, and easily accessible service.

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) is delivering the service in partnership with Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust (SFHT), and supported by an online sexual health provider, Preventx.

The free and confidential service - funded and commissioned by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council's Public Health services - has a single, dedicated website and contact centre telephone number to help people to access services more easily. The number is 0300 131 7010.

The services offered have not changed, these include:

- STI Testing / Treatment
- Online testing via home testing kits
- Chlamydia Screening
- Contraception - with a full range of methods
- Emergency Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing
- Free Condoms
- Sexual Health Advice
- Youth clinic
- Hepatitis Testing
- HIV Testing
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) - to protect against HIV acquisition
- Counselling
- Relationships

- Sexual Problems
- Sexuality Issues
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SHSNN also provides seamless transfer to HIV Treatment and Care Services for those who require this.

You can contact SHSNN on 0300 131 7010 or visit their website at www.sexualhealthnn.co.uk

Changes in Original Pack Dispensing

Community Pharmacy England is hosting a webinar on Original Pack Dispensing (OPD) on Monday 25th November, at 7:30pm. This session will outline recent regulatory changes allowing pharmacies the flexibility to dispense up to +/- 10% of prescribed quantities in original packs starting in January 2025. To book onto this event please use this link [Book now for our OPD webinar - Community Pharmacy England](#)

LFD Service

It is important that people eligible for covid treatment are able to access lateral flow devices so if you are offering this service, please make sure that all of the pharmacy team is aware. It is also important to keep “my profile” up to date as the NHS service finder for patients uses this information. The service finder for pharmacies offering the LFD service can be accessed by following this link [Find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - NHS](#)

Medication name change “Ralvo” to “lidocaine Grunethal”

There have been reports of patients struggling to obtain lidocaine patches following confusion due to a name change. The manufacturer has informed the ICB that “Ralvo” is now distributed and sold in the UK as “Lidocaine Grünenthal 700 mg medicated plaster. This is a name change only and does not affect the product supply, price, safety or licensed use. The product is available via Alliance using the pipcode 1273861.

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.