



Community Pharmacy Essex Newsletter

November 2023

New Community Pharmacy local branding, and a new newsletter look

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<https://cpesx.org.uk/>



Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023–24

The Pharmacy Quality Scheme for 2023–24 launched on 1 June 2023.

As you may be aware It consists of one gateway criterion (New Medicines Service (NMS)) and three domains (Medicines Optimisation, Respiratory and Prevention). To meet the Gateway criterion **at least 15 NMS** need to be completed between 1st April 2023 and 31st December 2023.

To qualify for the PQS payment, pharmacy contractors must meet the gateway criterion by the end of 31 December 2023 and claim payment during the declaration period, which is between 9am on 5 February 2024 and 11.59pm on 1 March 2023/24.

Click [here](#) to see the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2023–24 guidance.

For further information about PQS please visit NHSBSA [website](#)

“Pharmacy First” Service

No doubt you would have seen the press releases about Pharmacy First (previously referred to as the “common conditions service”) launching on 31 January 2024 subject to IT system availability. Pharmacy First will be a new advanced service that will include 7 new clinical pathways and will also replace the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS).



The service will consist of three elements:

- Pharmacy First (common conditions service and PGD/protocols) – new element
- Pharmacy First (urgent repeat medicine supply) – previously commissioned as the CPCS
- Pharmacy First (NHS referrals for minor illness) – previously commissioned as the CPCS

Funding consists of a set-up fee of £2,000 that can be claimed from December 2023 up until service launch, a consultation fee of £15 and an activity fee of £1000 per month subject to reaching activity thresholds.

There will also be a monthly fixed payment of £1,000 from February 2024 subject to reaching a minimum number of monthly clinical pathway consultations.

Community Pharmacy Essex is working with our Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to manage timely communications to relevant stakeholders about the service. So far this has been to manage expectations, and to request Community Pharmacy England challenge the statement from Doctors Association UK that pharmacies were being paid twice as much as GPs were. We are also preparing clear messaging where criteria, treatments and treatment durations in the PGDs may differ from ICB or PCN formularies and protocols: Pharmacies must not be put under pressure by GP practices to deviate from the national PGDs.

<https://cpe.org.uk/national-pharmacy-services/advanced-services/pharmacy-first-service/>

Pharmacy First Development Day Sunday 28th January 2024

To help you get the most out of Pharmacy First we are arranging a development day on Sunday 28th January 2024 at Ivy Hill Hotel, Margareting, CM4 OEH.

Although the agenda and timings are still being finalised the day will include:

- CPPE ENT consultations workshop (including practical use of otoscopes) The session will provide an introduction and opportunity to practice ear, nose, and throat examination skills and will be facilitated by two CPPE tutors, a GP and a clinical demonstrator
- RCGP Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme;
- Initiating Oral Contraception;
- Practical and Operational aspects of delivering the services.

To reserve places please e-mail office@cpesx.org.uk – this event is open to pharmacists, Foundation pharmacists (pre-registration) and technicians, mindful that we are awaiting the outcomes of the consultation on pharmacy technicians operating under PGD.

CPPE are also running the ENT consultations workshop (morning and afternoon sessions) on Sunday 14th January 2023 in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire as their East of England regional offer, although places are limited.



Mandatory work force survey

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the workforce survey conducted by North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of NHS England is MANDATORY survey and needs to be completed by 17th December. This is a mandatory survey (it replaces the mandatory clinical audit that used to be in the Terms of Service). NHSE may cross-check against this when Pharmacy First goes live as compliance with essential service terms of service is a prerequisite.

The managed sector (Hospitals, ICBs etc) complete a survey annually but community pharmacy data has not been captured historically- if we want investment into the sector, both nationally and locally, we need to show a realistic picture of the challenges you are all facing.

Our field officers Frank and Mo will be phoning round to those of you that do not appear to have completed the survey yet, Please can you ensure you complete the survey by Sunday 17th December 2023

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/just-over-two-weeks-left-to-complete-the-2023-mandatory-workforce-survey/>

Discharge Medicines Service (DMS)

In our recent webinar featuring Liam Stapleton on “understanding your FP34 statement” he emphasised how important it was to make sure we all maximise our **essential** service claims.

The essential service Discharge Medicine Service (DMS) is eligible for a payment of between £12 to £35 for the 3 stages. **A completed DMS is the funding equivalent of over 27 dispensing (Single Activity) Fees!**

Meanwhile Hospital trusts are closely monitoring DMS completion in a timely manner, as they are incentivised to make referrals, and there is a sizeable gap between referrals made and completed claims to NHSBSA.

If you need any help or support with your DMS please contact Frank frank@cpesx.org.uk .



NHS 111 Healthcare Professional phone line

Many of you have attended our sessions with two of our NHS111 providers (Hertfordshire Urgent Care (HUC) in West Essex and IC24 in Mid and South Essex) to find out more about the 111 algorithms and referrals, and to appreciate the purpose of the Healthcare Professional phone line: However a lot of patients are still being told to call 111 themselves for onward referral.

This risks the patient ending up with the same referral again, or with unnecessary delays.

Please can you ensure that the Healthcare Professional Line for your local NHS111 provider is easily accessible in your pharmacy (but not visible to the public) so that both regular pharmacists and locums are aware of it?

Examples may include requests for an electronic prescription if you feel that a patient's presenting condition suggests this is appropriate, arranging a GP or Urgent Care appointment for a patient, or requesting clinical support if needed.

As this newsletter is also posted on our website we will not include the numbers here, but will attach them as a separate email attachment.

Meetings taking place soon

Pharmacy First Development Day

Sunday 28th January 2024

Mid-Essex forum at Lian Restaurant Witham with Dr Sanjeev Rana Tackling SABA over-use

Wednesday 31st January 2024

Details of all our events are circulated to all Essex Community Pharmacies. To reserve places please ensure you e-mail office@cpesx.org.uk in advance of the events.

Office Contact points

Office contact phone number: 01245 460079

General queries can be e-mailed to office@cpesx.org.uk or essex.lpc@nhs.net

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(Wednesday and Friday only) – PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO WORKING DAYS

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