



Community Pharmacy Essex Newsletter

Date : 27/06/2025

This newsletter is sent as required and contains useful information for community pharmacy owners in Essex.

In this update; Committee Member Intro, Independent Prescribing Courses 2025–26, Community Pharmacies and Whooping cough vaccinations, Your Committee Members! News you may have missed

Committee Member Introduction



Hi, I'm Sarah Read and I'm an independent contractor representative for Savages Pharmacy and my role is to support Mid-Essex contractors within the committee. I'm also a locum pharmacist and clinical governance/quality improvement consultant for Community Pharmacies.

I'm passionate about ensuring that as pharmacies change and grow with new NHS and private services, that we maintain excellent standards and become outstanding places of patient care – not only for public benefit but to ensure that pharmacy has continued trust and longevity for our businesses.

My advice to anyone looking to expand their provisions or make a change/progression in their business is to firstly go back to basics – have you covered all the essentials, and do you do these well and consistently? A good setup is essential to ensuring safe and effective services alongside other standard NHS contractual requirements. Utilise your team and their potential skills effectively and delegate tasks where appropriate if you haven't already done so – it's important to instil confidence and trust in them. We all work exceptionally hard each day in



our roles. I believe we deserve formal recognition for good practice when it comes to inspections taking place and don't deserve to 'fail' by missing key requirements.

Outside of work, you can usually find me at my allotment or with my children. I enjoy teaching them about cooking, using our own produce where we can. I also am part of some projects within children's mental health and am interested in preventative health behaviours such as reducing ultra-processed food and how this can improve our mental and physical wellbeing. Please feel free to chat to me at the Mid-Essex forum meetings or conferences or email me at sarah.read27@nhs.net.

Paxlovid arrangements: All Change!

The arrangements previously in place for the supply of the covid antiviral medicine Paxlovid have changed, along with the eligibility criteria for patients to receive the medication.

Prescriptions across Essex will still be issued by the relevant Covid Medicines Distribution Units (CMDU) following a consultation with a specialist, however Paxlovid is no longer available free of charge and all the government-supplied stocks have now expired.

What contractors need to do.

First, check the expiry date on any Paxlovid (and Molnupiravir) stock, as all the government-supplied free stock has now expired.

Second make sure the **whole team** are aware that prescriptions for Paxlovid **will be fully reimbursed by NHSBSA**.

If you are presented with a prescription for Paxlovid, or if the CMDU advise that they have a patient, please check whether you are able to obtain stock: We are aware that there are some contractor issues with Alliance accounts, and that some of you are working in organisations that may not allow you to order Paxlovid. **If you are able to order stock please do so, you will be fully reimbursed by NHSBSA.**

The "window" for treatment is 5 days from a positive test, so please try and avoid unnecessary delays.



We are working with CMDUs and ICB colleagues to secure a limited stockholding to support patients where no local pharmacies are able to source Paxlovid.

There is also correspondence to the central team to review current arrangements.

Your Committee Members

As pharmacy owners and pharmacists, we know how vital it is to have clear lines of communication. That's why we're providing you with this essential list of your regional pharmacy representatives. The table below shows you exactly who to contact and their names, roles so you can easily connect with the individuals advocating for our profession. We encourage you to share your insights and engage with those representing your interests.

Community Pharmacy Essex – Committee Members Additional Roles				
Name	Status	Locality	Mobile	Email
Babatunde Sokoya	Elected Contractor Rep	West	07970197492	sokoyaat94@gmail.com
Christine Stafford	CCA	West	07392121527	christine.stafford@boots.co.uk
Hussain Master	Elected Contractor Rep	South West	07828914884	husain.master@nhs.net



Ivy Tuffour	IPA	North East	07419329305	ivy@tuffourgroupp.com
Jon Lake	CCA and Chair	South East	07877451255	chair@cpesx.org.uk
Kevin Western	IPA	North East	07941726762	kevin.erstern@nhs.net
Mo Raje	Elected Rep – Co Chair	South West	0753688123	mo.raje@nhs.net
Onome Sankey	CCA	Mid	07956493453	onome.sankey@nhs.net
Sarah Read	Elected Contractor Rep	Mid	07585971646	sarah.readpharm@gmail.com
Vacant	CCA	South East		
Anil Sharma (anil.sharma3@nhs.net – Regional Representative				

Committee Forum Meetings

We're excited to announce our upcoming forum meetings, aimed at bringing you crucial updates and foster local collaboration. One of the key highlight of these sessions will be a strong emphasis on health checks, particularly focusing on cholesterol checking and practical pocdoc demonstrations. We'll be providing a more detailed agenda for each meeting very soon, outlining all the topics we'll cover. Your participation is vital, and we encourage you to attend. To confirm your attendance and ensure you receive all updates, please email us at office@cpesx.org.uk.

- West Essex Forum – July 9th at Delta Waltham Abbey
- Mid Essex Forum – July 17th at Pontlands Park

We'll be announcing dates for other areas in the autumn to note you and all pharmacy colleague's and staff are welcome to attend any forum meeting in any area, as the core content will be consistent.



Controlled Drugs

A concern raised to Mid and South Essex ICB by one of the nurses working for St Luke's Hospice in Basildon. This was discussed in the Essex and Hertfordshire Controlled Drug Local Intelligence Network meeting on Thursday 12th June.

A patient who had been under the care of the hospice recently died at home, and their family circumstances were such that it was not safe for the unused controlled drugs to be left in the house, or to ask a family/household member to return them to the pharmacy for safe disposal.

The nurse tried to return them to three different pharmacies, and was sent away citing variously "we don't take them" "We don't have space/capacity" "you will need to take them to Boots".

If any of the pharmacies had said that they were not obliged to accept returns from the hospice this would have had a bit more traction- there is no obligation to accept returns from a hospice that is registered as providing nursing care- but these originated from the patient's own home and in any event none of the pharmacies stated this as a reason for refusing to accept the unwanted medicines.

Please can we gently remind you that you are required to accept patients' unwanted medicines, including controlled drugs. This primarily reduces the risk of diversion of controlled drugs, but also protects the person who is returning them: the nurse would have been vulnerable/at risk all the while she was going from pharmacy to pharmacy with controlled drugs that the family/household members knew about. Returned controlled drugs can be destroyed in the pharmacy without an authorised witness.

If you have a backlog of patient returned controlled drugs then please can you prioritise clearing these, and if you have a backlog of expired stock requiring authorised destruction please contact www.cdreporting.co.uk

If you require more frequent collection of waste you can arrange this through the anenta portal at <https://www.anentawaste.com/>.



News you may have missed

Upcoming: Future of Pharmacy Workshops

Community Pharmacy England are hosting a series of **"Future of Pharmacy" workshops** throughout July 2025. These workshops are aimed at **pharmacy owners and LPC's** to engage in crucial discussions about the sector's future.

These events will offer a platform for sharing your views, collaborative thinking and providing direct input into Community Pharmacy England's planning, workshops will be held in various regions.

East of England: – Monday, July 8th, 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM – Newmarket Racecourses **Booking Deadline: July 1st**

East and North Midlands: Tuesday, July 9th, 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM – Holiday Inn South Normanton
Booking Deadline: July 2nd

For more information and to book your place please visit the [Click Here – CPE 2025 Workshops](#)

Have You Completed Your DSP Toolkit Yet?

We wanted to bring an urgent reminder to your attention: the deadline for completing your Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPTK) for 2025 is fast approaching – Monday, June 30th, 2025.

We've been notified that nearly half of pharmacies in Essex are still outstanding on this crucial task. We at Community Pharmacy Essex can't stress enough how important it is for you to act today. Completing your DSPTK isn't just about compliance; it's about ensuring your pharmacy continues to meet NHS Terms of Service and avoiding that stressful last-minute rush.

We know these things can feel overwhelming, but help *is* at hand! A suite of handy tools specifically designed to support you through the process:

- Five Steps to Completing the Toolkit: A concise, two-page guide to get you started.
 - Question-by-Question Guide: A walk through each mandatory question.
 - Batch Submission Guide: If you're an owner managing three or more pharmacies, this is for you.
 - On-Demand Webinar: From Community Pharmacy England and the NHS DSPTK team. It even includes guidance on new features like Multi-Factor Authentication.
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Pharmacy First: Critical Reminder for March–May Claims!

As previously announced, it is crucial that all Pharmacy First consultations conducted in March, April, and May 2025 are claimed by 11:59 PM on 30th June 2025 to ensure payment. We **strongly encourage all pharmacy owners to log into the MYS portal and verify that all outstanding claims for this period** have been successfully submitted to the NHSBSA.

From 1st July 2025 onwards: Claims must now be submitted by the final day of the month following the month in which the Pharmacy First consultation took place. For example, any consultations provided in July 2025 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on 31st August 2025.

Please note, as highlighted above, this new one-month window also specifically impacts the outstanding claims for March–May 2025 consultations, bringing their deadline forward to June 30th.

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

Karen Samuel-Smith (Chief Officer) – karen@cpesx.org.uk – 07900 218444

Angela Culleton (Office Manager) – angela@cpesx.org.uk – 07566 798980

(Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm)

Eddie Brown (Business Intelligence Lead) – eddie@cpesx.org.uk – 07729095241*Lisa Lovell*

(Lifestyle Services Lead) – lisa@cpesx.org.uk – 0740 265 5556

Evan-Leigh Scheepers (Relations and Engagement Office) – evan@cpesx.org.uk – 07729095240

Community Pharmacy Essex – Tel: 01245 460079 | Email: office@CPExs.org.uk

Address: 17 Clematis Tye, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 6GL

Please get in touch via the contact details above if you want to unsubscribe from this mailing list.