



COMMUNITY PHARMACY ARDEN GENERAL UPDATE 2nd November 2023

Information is subject to change and is as accurate as we can ascertain at date published.

AGM Feedback: New Blog Post Published

Our AGM was held on 19th October – thank you all who attended the collaborative workshops. Please read Chief Officer, Fiona Lowe’s new blog post titled [Celebrating Success and Charting the Way Forward](#).

We’d also like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is really important that you check your NHS shared email regularly during the day as this is the main route for important information coming from ICB, NHSE and LPC. It is also the default route for many referrals where other systems are down. Please also check our [website](#) which we keep up to date with useful information.

Mandatory Workforce Survey: Deadline 17th December 2023

The 2023 Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey, conducted by North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of NHS England, opened on 23rd October 2023. Completion of the survey is a mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners.

The NHSBSA sent an email to pharmacy owners containing a link to the survey on 23rd October 2023. You can also access the survey via the following link: [Access the 2023 workforce survey](#)

In some cases, e.g. Company Chemists’ Association member companies and other multiple pharmacy groups, head offices will complete the survey centrally. If you are not sure whether the survey will be completed centrally, please ask your head office for guidance.

The survey is open for eight weeks and will close on Sunday 17th December 2023.

More details on CPE [here](#).

Pharmacy blood pressure check service finder tool for the public and patients

A new service finder on the NHS website allows healthcare professionals and patients to search for and [find a pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks](#).

The tool explains who is eligible to go to a pharmacy to get their blood pressure checked and can be searched using a postcode, with the nearest pharmacy listed first.

Blood pressure conditions pages on the NHS website have also been updated to signpost to the blood pressure pharmacy finder.

All pharmacy contractors offering the service should ensure that their pharmacy profile on [NHS Profile Manager](#) is up to date and indicates that they provide the service. This will ensure that all pharmacies which offer the service located nearest the postcode provided will be listed.



Contraception Service Webinar: Tuesday 28th November 2023

NHSE Midlands are hosting a webinar on Tuesday 28th November from 19:00 – 20:15. This follows feedback from Midlands pharmacists that a webinar to share experiences and have a chance to ask questions would be helpful. The speakers include:

- Emma Anderson, Community Pharmacist for Evans Pharmacy
- Sehra Mehta, Service Manager for Online provision, Training, Prevention and Health Advising, Sexual Health Service, Midlands Partnership NHS Trust
- Dr Joanne Watt, GP in Northamptonshire specialising in sexual health and an Associate Medical Director in the Midlands

You can join the webinar via this link: [Click here to join the meeting](#). The agenda for the session is as follows:

1. Contraception Service update and context
2. Delivering the Contraception Service: Community Pharmacist Insights reflecting on the most common question asked about choice of contraception
3. Sharing Learning - Sexual Health Clinic Experiences: Covering topics like challenging consultations, initiating EHC patients who in the longer term want a LARC and useful advice that supports pharmacists in offering the service
4. Sharing Learning - General Practice Experiences: Top tips for sexual health consultations, Interface with General Practice, questions to consider when initiating oral contraceptives
5. Question and Answers – If you have any questions you would like to ask in advance please complete this online form - <https://forms.office.com/e/bx7GzAj1KY>

Lateral flow device tests supply service: Registration on MYS Portal from Monday 06 November 2023

Community Pharmacy NHS Lateral flow device (LFD) tests supply advanced service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments. Please find attached [an operational note](#) on lateral flow device test supply service for your information.

From 6 November 2023, LFD tests will no longer be available via GOV.UK or via 119. However, LFD tests still need to be available and easily accessible to people who are potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments through routine NHS access routes and community pharmacy is well placed within the local community to provide local and rapid access for patients.

Access to COVID-19 community-based treatment will continue to be based on a confirmed COVID-19 infection, achieved with a diagnostic LFD test, in line with some of the recommended treatment's product licences. Given the short efficacy window for treatment and practical implications of point-of-care testing, tests need to be available for eligible patients to access in advance of developing symptoms. As per the attached note, the advanced service is a walk-in service where patients/patients' representatives can collect one box of five LFD tests from a participating community pharmacy, on confirmation that the patient is part of the cohort which is potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments.

Community pharmacy contractors will need to register via NHSBSA's MYS portal in order to provide this advanced service. The service will be available to register on the MYS portal on 6 November 2023. If you have any queries, please contact england.midsroc2@nhs.net.



Medicine Shortages: Diabetes

Insulin degludec (Tresiba): This is a long-acting insulin - patients are prescribed 100iu/ml or 200iu/ml generally in pens or penfills. There is no supply available currently of 100iu/ml pens. There are two options available for patients who are currently prescribed the 100iu/pens:

1. Switch to the penfill and get a reusable pen prescribed alongside this. These pens are better environmentally and last up to 5 years, patients take this medicine once daily so won't generally need to have multiple pens in use so it lends itself well to a reusable pen with penfill cartridges.
2. If the reusable pen is unsuitable then patients can be switched to the 200iu/ml pens. The patient experience of using the pen is exactly the same, the number of required units are dialled up as with 100iu/ml pens and no dose adjustments are needed. However, the 200iu/ml pens do dose in increments of 2units and so are less suitable for those on lower doses.

More information on safely switching can be found [here](#).

GLP-1Ras: This class of drug includes: dulaglutide, exenatide, liraglutide and semaglutide injections, as well as semaglutide tablets.

There are very limited, intermittent supplies or availability issues affecting all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs). Supplies are not expected to stabilise to meet full market demand until at least mid-2024. The supply issues have been caused by an increase in demand for these products for licensed and off-label indications. Where supply of one drug is available there is not enough available to support uplift in demand from other GLP-1 receptor agonists. The SPS Medicines Supply Tool will be updated for stock position of all GLP-1RAs. To access the tool you need to register with NHS email.

[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS – Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Please note, in cases of no supply available, when sending a patient back to their surgery for an alternative prescription, this will require them to book an appointment and is not simply a case of issuing a new script to the pharmacy.

NHS Respect Campaign: Download your resources

As part of the ongoing NHS respect campaign, pharmacy contractors are reminded of the campaign resources available that you may wish to display or utilise.

Materials are available for use in healthcare settings to encourage patients to treat NHS staff with respect by 'social norming' this behaviour. The pre-populated assets feature NHS staff working in NHS settings and carry the message 'We are here to help you. Thank you for treating us with respect'. The assets are part of a package of measures designed to help and support NHS staff, which includes wellbeing resources and support for managing patients.

The full range of resources can be accessed on NHS England Midlands website as a zip file – [NHS England – Midlands » Pharmacy in the Midlands](#).

The same resources are also available via the Department of Health and Social Care Campaign Resources Website – [NHS Staff Respect | Help Us Help You – Primary Care Services | Campaign Resource Centre \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](#)



Young people's drug and alcohol services – COVENTRY ONLY!

The City Council is to re-commission two key services supporting people affected by, or at risk of, drug and alcohol misuse. These services are:

- Adult drug and alcohol treatment service. This service is currently delivered by CGL Coventry
- Early intervention service and Young People's Substance Misuse Service for children and young people. This service is currently delivered by CGL under the local service name 'Positive Choices'

Both contracts are due to expire in March 2025 and we are seeking to engage with communities and stakeholders to inform our commissioning plans. We have 2 requests to make today:

1. Could you complete, and encourage others to complete surveys to help us understand how we can improve local services. We have 2 questionnaires:
 - [Survey 1: to collect your feedback and thoughts about a treatment service for adults](#)
 - [Survey 2: to collect your feedback and thoughts about an early intervention service for children and young people](#)

Both surveys can be completed by people who are directly affected by drug or alcohol misuse and stakeholders (eg. staff and volunteers). Both are on the [Council's Let's Talk engagement portal](#).

Please could you take the time to complete whichever survey(s) are most relevant to you and your work. Please feel free to circulate the survey to others who may wish to contribute their thoughts.

We are keen to hear the views of people who are directly affected by these issues – and would appreciate your help in sharing these surveys among your clients and encourage them to complete them.

2. We would like to hear directly from key stakeholders at a session we plan to hold on the morning of Monday 27 November in central Coventry. Could you confirm if you are able to attend – or could you seek alternative representation from your organisation?
If possible, could you confirm who would be able to attend by Friday 3 November by emailing phconsultations@coventry.gov.uk.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time. If you have any queries, or wish to have any hard copies of the surveys, please could you email phconsultations@coventry.gov.uk.

Bank Holiday Opening Intentions & EOI (Easter & Spring Bank Holidays)

Please complete the form below NO LATER THAN the deadline of 27 November 2023:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wY8Tpv42b4>

Please provide your proposed opening time for the following bank and public holidays:

- Good Friday : 29 March 2024
- Easter Sunday : 31 March 2024
- Easter Monday : 1 April 2024
- Early May : 6 May 2024
- Spring : 27 May 2024

(continued on next page)



You will have the opportunity, within this form, to express an interest to be included in a bank holiday rota for Good Friday; Easter Sunday, Easter Monday; Early Spring and Spring Bank/Public Holidays, dates as above. This expression of interest will supersede any previous rota arrangements in place.

NHS England has a duty to ensure that there is adequate pharmacy provision over all bank and public holidays (including Easter Sunday). If NHS England believe that there is not adequate provision we may issue directions to one or more pharmacies, requiring them to open.

This is an opportunity to express an interest in opening under Direction on Good Friday; Easter Sunday, Easter Monday; Early Spring and Spring Bank Holiday, dates as above. This is an expression of interest for consideration only and submission does not guarantee that you will be Directed to open.

Please note, that if you are issued with a Direction to open, the payment will be paid at £350 (per hour) for Easter Sunday and £275 (per hour) for all other bank holidays.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this update, please contact the LPC Team.
Copies of our previous newsletters can be found [here](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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USEFUL LINKS:

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline Tracker](#)

[CPE Important Dates and Checklist](#)