



COMMUNITY PHARMACY ARDEN GENERAL UPDATE 8th February 2024

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

Pharmacy First Update Webinar for Coventry and Warwickshire

All pharmacies in Coventry and Warwickshire are invited to join our Pharmacy First update webinar on MS Teams. Find details below:

Date: February 22nd, 2024 - Time: 7.30pm-9.00pm

- The key information you need to know
 - Service delivery data
 - The successes and challenges so far
 - The IT issues and plans
 - Engagement with practices
 - Any questions you may have!
- + ICB update on the launch of Smoking Cessation Service from our acute trusts to community pharmacies

You can send in your questions ahead of time to ahwlp@gmail.com

You can find the webinar link is in the attached [FLYER](#). There will be a recording of the webinar available at a later date.

Pharmacy First Referrals

We have heard some great stories about the success of this service and how much patients have benefitted from the quick access it has provided. We would love to hear some more so please send in any you would like to share to ahwlp@gmail.com

There have been some IT issues to contend with initially, so we appreciate this has made things difficult to start. There are some reports of referrals not being picked up by pharmacies and also some where the referral has been rejected and the reason doesn't seem to be within exclusion criteria. Where these are reported to us, we will contact pharmacies directly to understand the issue so we can give feedback to the referrer.

Please remember that the service should be provided during all opening hours and any temporary pause will require you to notify the DoS and local surgeries. If you do not have an otoscope or have not yet had training on its use, then please inform your local surgeries who will be making referrals so they don't send these to you. If you do receive a referral for otitis media but cannot offer the consultation then it is important to find out who can and direct the patient onwards to this pharmacy, making sure to call the pharmacy in advance.

If any help or support is needed then you can contact us on ahwlp@gmail.com. You can also contact Eva directly by email: eva.ahwlp@gmail.com or by phone: **079 27181456**. We are here to help you!



Pharmacy First Resources

The [Pharmacy First page](#) on our website includes a collection of resources available to date to help you navigate this new service. We hope the initial IT problems some of you experienced since the service launch last week have now been sorted. If you still have any IT issues, please contact PharmOutcomes/Pinnacle Health Help Desk [here](#) or email: helpdesk@phpartnership.com

Pharmacy Information Pack

We're glad that so many of you have found our Pharmacy Information Pack useful. We've had some positive feedback from pharmacies and locums alike, including this one on social media from one of our contractors: "A big thank you to Fiona and all the guys at the LPC. The services guide is an excellent resource that has helped us get ready for the launch of the Pharmacy First service."

Remember, if you need to print more copies, you can find the full pack on our website [here](#).

Get Ahead of Pharmacy First: NHS Funded Training for Community Pharmacy

Community pharmacists are being offered a range of fully-funded, flexible training to expand their clinical skills and improve patient care. Find the current courses listed [here](#).

In addition, training courses for Pharmacy Technicians can be found [here](#).

Foundation Training 25/26 Intake

Employer registration for the 2025/26 foundation training year via Oriel is now open. Registration closes at 23:59 on **1st March 2024**. More information on CPE [here](#). Find out more about Foundation Pharmacist Training Site Requirements for 2025/26 [here](#).

We are waiting for information to provide a list of local contacts to support multisector placements. As soon as we have this information, we'll pass it on.

Covid-19 Vaccination Contracts Extended

NHS England has written to pharmacies currently providing the COVID-19 vaccination service to ask whether they would be willing to extend the duration of their current contract to provide the service until 31st August 2024.

Pharmacies that are contracted to provide the COVID-19 vaccination service have been asked to inform their local commissioner by **22nd February 2024**, if they can continue offering the service from 31st March 2024 to 31st August 2024.

The Enhanced Service specification has been updated and published on the [NHS England website](#). Minimal changes have been made to it, except the end date and payment arrangements from 1st April 2024. Find out more on CPE [here](#).



New Resources for Valproate Safety Measures

MHRA has released new safety and educational materials to support the implementation of regulatory measures for valproate-containing products.

These measures aim to reduce known risks, such as harm to babies during pregnancy and impaired fertility in males. The materials include updated guides, acknowledgment forms, patient cards, posters, and warning stickers.

Pharmacy owners are encouraged to put in place a plan to implement the first phase of the [new regulatory measures](#), which came into force on 31st January 2024. Find out more on CPE [here](#). Additional information can be found on the GPhC website [here](#).

Drug Alert from Change Grow Live C&W: vapes containing synthetic cannabinoids (SCRA- Spice)

CGL in Coventry and Warwickshire has issued a drug alert warning about vape pens spiked with a synthetic cannabinoid often known as Spice. Find attached a [poster](#) warning about dangers and providing safety advice.

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 CPCF Important Dates](#)