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## Welcome

A belated Happy New Year to all Thames Valley contractors - let's hope that 2022 finally sees the end of the pandemic.

The LPC is incredibly proud of its contractors in such difficult times. We understand that absenteeism due to sickness is at a record high and recruitment of new team members is becoming increasingly difficult in an ever more competitive healthcare landscape - this makes all your efforts even more amazing. As a way to recognise the efforts of our teams, we will be repeating our very successful Pharmacy Hero Awards scheme this year, please encourage your patients and team to take part - details below.

As you are probably aware, the way our local healthcare organisations are managed is changing. CCGs will transform into ICS (integrated Care Systems) – so we now have BOB (Berkshire West/Oxfordshire/Bucks) and Frimley ICS (Berkshire East/Surrey Heath/NE Hants). This hopefully will open up more locally-commissioned services for contractors as the LPC works hard to get community pharmacy at the forefront of improving patient outcomes.

Confidence in us being able to deliver has been underlined by the amazing work many of you have done around both flu and Covid vaccinations - the latest data shows contractors in Thames Valley have administered over 126,000 flu vaccinations compared to 61,000 last year!

2022 has seen the start of the new Hypertension Case Finding Service, with around 28% of our pharmacies now signed up. This will give many "at risk" patients access to a BP check in pharmacy, followed up by a 24-hour ambulatory check at home if necessary. In addition to this is the ability to take on any patients from your local GP practice that need regular BP checks so do speak to your local surgeries, and join our webinar on 3rd February - registration and joining [details here](#).

Watch this space for news of more collaboration at a local level – we are working hard to land more PGDs and more financially-viable contracts for other locally-commissioned services. *David Dean, Chief Officer*



## 2022 Pharmacy Hero Awards

To recognise the continued incredible efforts of our community pharmacy teams, we are pleased to announce the launch of the 2022 Pharmacy Hero Awards. Nominations can be made at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pharmacy-hero-2022>

The closing date for entries is 31st March 2022, after which a panel will select one winning pharmacy in Oxfordshire and one in Berkshire to receive a trophy and a £200 prize.



# Contractor Support Officer Update



Happy New Year! A quick update on GP CPCS and DMS from me.

**GP CPCS** - Unfortunately, we have 2 different IT solutions in Thames Valley LPC for GP CPCS:

**Berkshire West and Oxfordshire CCG** have elected to use NHSmail as the referral route into pharmacies but pharmacies will be sending the consultation information back to the practice via PharmOutcomes. Everyone involved agrees that this is a 'clunky' process but it is the CCG's decision not to use EMIS/PharmOutcomes. The LPC has now trained over 30 practices across this region, so hopefully we will start to see the benefit of the training in referrals into community pharmacies.

**Frimley ICS** use EMIS/PharmOutcomes as their IT solution for GP CPCS and this has worked very well. Whilst not every practice has gone live, the vast majority have now started, with over 3,000 GP CPCS referrals, the vast majority of which have led to a consultation within the agreed timescale.

Please can I reinforce the importance of pharmacies checking PharmOutcomes and NHS Mail at least 4/5 times a day so that GP CPCS consultations can be completed within the agreed timescales and so that, hopefully, we can exceed patients' expectations.

**Discharge Medicines Service** - Again, we have different referral routes into community pharmacies from hospitals. Royal Berkshire are using PharmOutcomes, whereas Frimley Hospital and Oxford University Hospital are using NHSmail for the discharge summaries. Royal Berkshire have completed more than four times as many DMS referrals as the other two hospital trusts by using PharmOutcomes.

The LPC is supporting community pharmacies by:

- Continuing to review data and provide feedback to those pharmacies that need support. It appears that a large percentage of pharmacies are not claiming their completed DMS. If you follow all 3 stages of the DMS, the payment is £35. An NMS could also come from a DMS, thus adding to the payment for the service.
- Working with NHS England to demonstrate and share best practice.
- Helping Frimley ICS develop a new electronic record sharing tool to enable automatic discharge referrals.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Services webinar on 3rd February. Don't hesitate to contact me in the meantime with any queries.

*Kevin Barnes, Contractor Support Officer*

## Sustainability



The RPS has published a sustainability policy detailing the actions they believe are required across the sector, and calling on the pharmaceutical industry, government and other stakeholders, both within healthcare and beyond, to work in partnership to make the changes that are needed to tackle the climate emergency. The policy makes recommendations in four sections:

- a) Improving prescribing and medicines use
- b) Tackling medicines waste
- c) Preventing ill health
- d) Improving infrastructure and ways of working

To view the full policy [click here](#)



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## CPCS IT

A reminder that a 'provider pays' commissioning model will come into effect on 1st April 2022, when the responsibility for the cost of CPCS IT solutions will transfer to community pharmacy contractors. Contractors have three options: Switching to a different CPCS IT provider; Staying with their existing CPCS IT provider; De-registering from the service by 28th February 2022.

For full details and a Buying Guide [click here](#).



## Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment

Registration for the 2023-24 cohort of trainee pharmacists is now open until Tuesday 1st March 2022. To recruit via Oriel employers must register each year. You will need to provide programme specific information and agree to meet the terms of participation. For more information including the employer handbook and recruitment overview [click here](#). To receive news by email about the initial education and training of pharmacists, make sure to sign up to the HEE newsletter - [click here](#).



## Newly Qualified Pharmacist Pathway (NQPP)

This new (optional) pathway is designed for learners across all sectors of pharmacy, to help them meet their development needs as they enter newly qualified practice. The pathway aims to link the initial education and training reforms to a continuum of post-registration development. It is also intended to help pharmacists make the transition to more independent learning, and to act as a stepping-stone towards advanced practice. Find out more about funded support, including links to RPS-run webinars for both learners and educational supervisors, and information on how to register - [click here](#).



## EHC & DAPL - Oxfordshire

The current PGD for Levonelle expires on the 31st March 2022 and a new one is being drawn up. You will receive an alert on PharmOutcomes when the new version is available on the [services page](#) of our web site. Please ensure you download and complete Appendix B with the named pharmacists who will issue EHC under it. Please note, the Dynamic Approved Provider List (DAPL) contract expires at the end of March 2022, all Oxfordshire contractors providing services for Oxfordshire County Council will need to apply/reapply. For details [click here](#).



## Smartcard Advice & Guidance

South Central and West Registration Authority (Smartcard Team) would like to highlight some Smartcard areas which may be supportive in managing your smartcards:

- If you have a NHS Net email address you can sign up to the self-service unlock – meaning you can unlock your own smartcard. Please [click here](#) for a guide on how to register
- If you are registering for a smartcard please remember - the ID Checker will need your National Insurance (NI) number and middle name (if you have one), without these your application will be rejected.
- Please do consider becoming a 'Local Smartcard Administrator' in your store, this positions allows you to unlock your colleagues cards. They recommend 2-3 per store. Your store RA sponsor can assign this role to you in the smartcard system.



Please note the Team have a new postal address: RA Team, / NHS Smartcard Team, SCW CSU The Pierre Simonet Building, Gateway North, Latham Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 4DL  
Contact details for the Smartcard Team are: [scwcsu.smartcards@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.smartcards@nhs.net) or 0300 561 0429

# Autism Professionals Programme



This series of online workshops, being delivered from February to May 2022, is aimed at professionals working with children and young people with autistic spectrum conditions and their families. The workshops underpin many of the core capabilities in the Framework for Supporting People with Autism, recently delivered by Health Education England. The live workshops will be delivered via Zoom and will not be recorded. Each workshop will be limited to a maximum of 30 attendees. Sessions are designed to be interactive. For more information go to:

<http://www.pharmacythamesvalley.org.uk/our-news/free-autism-workshops/>

## CPPE Leading for Change



This fully funded leadership programme is open to anyone who has responsibility for leading a team or leading services within their organisation and would like to develop their skills further. The aim of the programme is to enable you to develop the behaviours required to become an inspiring and effective pharmacy leader, equipping you with the knowledge and skills to take on challenges effectively and lead in medicines optimisation to deliver better outcomes for your patients and service users.

The programme comprises four online modules delivered over six months: Achieving your potential; Developing and managing services; Inspiring and achieving the best from your team; and Pharmacy within the wider healthcare system. Each module is supported by a half-day online workshop, online discussion forums and a networking Zoom Room to enable you to put your learning into practice and to allow you to network with fellow course participants. At the end of the programme you are required to submit an assignment to demonstrate how you have used your leadership skills over the course of the six months.

There will be six cohorts of the programme running in 2022, starting in March, May and September 2022. Please visit the CPPE website for further details <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/skills/leading>

## Upcoming Events

For details of these and all our events visit: [www.pharmacythamesvalley.org.uk/our-events/](http://www.pharmacythamesvalley.org.uk/our-events/)

Date	Event	Audience	Venue
11.00-12.30, 28/1/2022	RSG Engagement	Pharmacy teams	Online
19.30-20.30, 3/2/2022	Pharmacy Services Workshop - Hypertension Service	Pharmacists	Online
19.15-20.45, 16/2/2022	Anticoagulation Stewardship: Session 4	Pharmacists	Online
9.30-13.00, 23/2/2022 or 24/3/2022	Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) training for Alcohol	Pharmacy teams	Online

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