

To: All Thames Valley Pharmacies

Weekly News Digest – 11th January 2024

- **Pharmacy First Resources** – in preparation for the start of the service on 31st January:
 - the slides and a recording of the LPC webinar entitled “Introducing Pharmacy First”, held on 9th January, are now available – [slide pack](#); [recording \(YouTube\)](#)
 - CPE have created a [Pharmacy Owner Checklist](#); [Pharmacist Checklist](#); and [Pharmacy Team Briefing](#)
 - NHS England has published final versions of the 23 Patient Group Directions (PGDs) and protocol for the Pharmacy First service. Pharmacists must read and sign-up to these final versions (rather than the draft versions), before providing the service. [Click here](#).
- **Pharmacy First & the Year Ahead Poll** – CPE are asking independent and non-CCA multiple pharmacies to complete a short survey to inform discussions at the next full CPE committee meeting at the end of January. Please provide your input by midnight on 21st January 2024. [Click here](#).
- **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Service** – following complaints, we have been asked to remind pharmacies signed up to deliver the LFD service to ensure that they have sufficient stock available. If you are not signed up to the service, or are unable to supply, please signpost to a pharmacy that is. A map of Thames Valley providers is available on our website – [click here](#).
- **Hypertension Case Finding Webinar** – an on-demand version of CPE’s Hypertension Case Finding Webinar held on 3rd January is now available to view – [click here](#).
- **Supervised Consumption and Needle Exchange Oxfordshire** – a reminder that the deadline to upload service activity data for the October-December 2023 quarter is 28 January 2024. Please ensure all data is uploaded to PharmOutcomes before this date to ensure payments are made in full for these services.
- **Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment** - all trainee pharmacists for 2025/26 must be recruited via the National Recruitment Scheme, Oriel, which is open for employers from 11th January 2024 until 1st March 2024. To support pharmacies in preparation for 2025/26 foundation training, and in registering training programmes on Oriel, the NHS England WT&E South East pharmacy team are hosting a series of ad-hoc online support sessions throughout January and February. For details and dates [click here](#).
- **LPC Election 2024** – following recent changes to contractor composition, we now have a vacancy for an LPC Committee member representing independent contractors. Further details and a self-nomination form are available on our website. The deadline for submissions is 12 noon on Wednesday 31st January 2024 and we would like to encourage all independent contractors to consider standing. [Click here](#).
- **Community Pharmacy Technician – Advancing Your Role** – CPPE are offering this fully funded course to help community pharmacy technicians develop the skills and confidence to deliver effective clinical services in community pharmacy. To find out more, see details below of an upcoming information webinar, or see the [CPPE website](#).
- **BOB Medicines Optimisation Bulletin (BOB MOB)** – the January BOB newsletter, which provides National and System updates, as well as events news and training resources, is now available – [click here](#).

- [BetterPoints Bucks Newsletter](#) - BetterPoints (smart app) is working with the Buckinghamshire Council's Public Health team to change the way Buckinghamshire residents think about how they move – for better health, cleaner air, and reaching Net Zero. For more information [click here](#). The BetterPoints Bucks January update is [available here](#).
-

Events

- [Community Pharmacy Technician: Advancing your Role](#) – **19.00-20.00, 16th January** – CPPE are running this information session (a repeat of the 10th January event), offering a chance to find out more about the programme and how it is relevant to the current and future community pharmacy landscape. [Click here](#).
 - [BOB ICS Polypharmacy Community of Practice](#) – **13.00-14.00, 17th January** – this will be the 4th meeting of the group, which is open to all interested health professionals in the BOB ICS area, whose purpose is to foster a system-wide culture of collaboration, learning and innovation to reduce problematic polypharmacy for those most at risk from harm. [Click here](#).
 - [In Person Pharmacy First Engagement Event](#) – **19.15-21.30, 24th January** – Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford - there are still a few places available at our Oxford event (High Wycombe & Reading are now full). The evening will introduce the service, cover the clinical pathways, and answer any questions you may have. There will also be an ENT training session run by Cliniskills (please bring your otoscope). [Click here](#).
 - [Pharmacy First ENT Clinical Assessment Skills Training](#) – **9.30-12.45, Sunday 18th February 2024** - Windlesham Golf Club, Grove End, Bagshot, GU19 5HY – Frimley ICB and the local LPCs have arranged this CPPE-led session to supplement national sessions. There are 30 places available for East Berkshire (ie Bracknell, Slough & RBWM) pharmacies. [Click here](#). We will also be running a session for BOB (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West) pharmacies, date to be announced shortly.
-