

To: All Thames Valley Pharmacies

Weekly News Digest – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

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- **Pharmacy First Resources**
  - Pharmacy First NHS Launch Letter – [click here](#)
  - Pharmacy First PGD Master Authorisation sheet – [click here](#)
  - CPE are running Pharmacy First drop-in sessions on Teams for any contractor queries - from 1-2pm on 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February - [click here](#)
  - ENT training – the Cliniskills ENT module now includes an on-demand version of the Ear and Throat webinar (held on 18<sup>th</sup> January) which includes the use of otoscopes. You can also register your interest in attending additional face-to-face sessions to be announced shortly. [Click here.](#)
  - Resources to share with your GP Surgeries:
    - Virtual Outcomes module for GP Practices – [click here](#)
    - Template letter/email to GP Practices introducing the service – [click here](#)
- **Community Pharmacy Technician training** - the Community Pharmacy Technician: Advancing your Role programme is a fully funded course that helps community pharmacy technicians develop the skills and confidence to deliver effective clinical services in community pharmacy. To find out more, join a CPPE information session (see events below), or [register here](#).
- **Valproate Safety & Educational Materials** - new regulatory measures are now in place to reduce the known harms from valproate, including the significant risk of serious harm to the baby if taken during pregnancy and the risk of impaired fertility in males. To support implementation, the MHRA website now includes new resources such as patient and healthcare professional guides, a patient card, and pharmacy poster – [click here](#).
- **Minor Ailments Scheme, BOB ICB** – a reminder that a local Minor Ailments Scheme, open to pharmacies in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) ICB area, is now live. Targeted at patients on low income and their dependents, for a concise list of OTC medicines, the service will run until 31st March 2024. For details and to register [click here](#).
- **Antibiotic Course Length** – the ICB have asked us to share these resources on reducing antibiotic course length to help explain this priority and why you may be seeing prescriptions for 15 rather than 21 tablets. [Click here.](#)
- **BOB ICS Primary Care Strategy** – BOB ICS have developed a draft Primary Care Strategy and are keen to hear from Community Pharmacy colleagues to hear feedback and ideas to help refine this draft strategy further so that it works for the people who live and work in BOB. To view the draft and share your views [click here](#).
- **Dulaglutide (Trulicity)** – if you are unable to access supplies of Trulicity through your wholesaler, please contact the Lilly Product Supply Helpline on 0800 012 1178 and they will try to source the doses required.
- **Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment** - all trainee pharmacists for 2025/26 must be recruited via the National Recruitment Scheme, Oriol, which closes 1st March 2024. To support pharmacies in preparation for 2025/26 foundation training, and in registering training programmes on Oriol, 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](#)

- [Category M Webinar](#) – an on-demand version of CPE’s webinar (held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January) to explain the complexities of the Category M pricing system, the impact on individual pharmacies, and the challenges posed by growing prescription volumes is [available here](#).
  - [Frimley Prescribing Newsletter](#) – the January edition of the Frimley prescribing newsletter, which provides medicines management updates, as well as details of training and events, is now available – [click here](#).
  - [NHSBSA Hints & Tips](#) – the latest edition of the NHSBSA newsletter, including guidance on PPCs, RTEC, and how to avoid refer backs, is now available – [click here](#).
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## Events

- [Community Pharmacy Technician – Advancing Your Role](#) – **7<sup>th</sup> February, 12.30-13.00**, or **12<sup>th</sup> February, 13.00-13.30 or 19.00-19.30** - CPPE are running these information sessions, on a choice of dates, for contractors and technicians to find out more information about the “Advancing your role” course – [click here](#)
- [Pharmacy First Training \(including face-to-face ENT session\)](#) (BOB ICB) – **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – BOB ICB and the LPC have arranged this ECG-led blended learning programme, including a face-to-face ENT session, for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West pharmacies. ENT sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn High Wycombe on 17<sup>th</sup> March, with a choice of sessions throughout the day - [click here](#)
- [Let’s Talk About Vaccines](#) – **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 18.00-20.30** - this training session from BOB ICB looks to help build confidence, skills and knowledge to open up discussions with patients about vaccination decisions. The 2.5-hour online, interactive session is free to health, social care and voluntary sector staff across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West. Daytime sessions are also available. [Click here](#)