

To: All Thames Valley Pharmacies

Weekly News Digest – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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- **[Pharmacy First](#)** – the service is due to start on 31st January, please see resources below:
    - **[Final PGDs & Protocol](#)** - 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](#).
    - **[Getting to Know the Service Webinar](#)** – an on-demand version of the CPE webinar held on 13<sup>th</sup> December is available to [view here](#). The LPC are also holding a webinar for Thames Valley contractors on 9<sup>th</sup> January, see Events below.
    - **[Preparation Resources & Checklists](#)** – CPE have created a [Pharmacy Owner Checklist](#); [Pharmacist Checklist](#); and [Pharmacy Team Briefing](#) to support pharmacy teams in preparing to deliver the service.
  - **[ADHD Medication](#)** – we have been asked to remind pharmacies, when dealing with repeats/“owing” prescriptions for Intuniv (guanfacine) and other ADHD medication, where supply has been disrupted, please check to ensure that the patient has been retitrated and, if not, refer them back to the prescriber before dispensing. This is a particular safety issue with Intuniv.
  - **[Pharmacy Contraception Service](#)** - a recording of the CPE “Pharmacy Contraception Service: Initiating Contraception” webinar is available to view [on demand here](#). Your Virtual Outcomes training resources now also includes a module on the expanded service – [enter your ODS code here](#). Please ensure your [NHS Profile](#) is up to date for this and all other services.
  - **[Minor Ailments Scheme, BOB ICB](#)** - 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 over the winter until 31st March 2024. For details [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](#).
  - **[GetUBetter App](#)** - the getUBetter digital self-management app is now being offered to patients across Frimley ICS (Bracknell, Slough & RBWM), to support people with musculoskeletal (MSK) problems. Frimley pharmacies will receive a poster and the ICB would be grateful if relevant patients could be encouraged to download the app using the QR code on the poster. [Click here](#).
  - **[NICE Update](#)** - the December edition of the NICE monthly newsletter for primary care staff is now available. This includes clinical knowledge summaries, links to events, blog posts, and more. [Click here](#).
  - **[MHRA Drug Safety Update](#)** – the December edition of the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) monthly newsletter is also now available. [Click here](#).
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## Events

- **[Introducing Pharmacy First Webinar](#)** – **19.30-20.30, 9<sup>th</sup> January** – LPC evening webinar to discuss the Pharmacy First service and answer any questions you may have at this stage - [Register here](#)
  - **[Community Pharmacy Technician: Advancing your Role](#)** – **13.00-14.00, 10<sup>th</sup> January** or **19.00-20.00, 16<sup>th</sup> January** – CPPE are running this information session, on a choice of 2 dates, 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](#).
  - **[In Person Pharmacy First Engagement Event](#)** – **19.15-21.30, 24<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](#).
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