

## Weekly News Digest - 28th March 2024

### [Extended Role for Pharmacy Technicians](#)

The government has announced today that pharmacy technicians will be given greater powers, enabling them to supply medicines via PGDs, and potentially administer vaccinations and provide consultations under Pharmacy First. [Click here](#).

A reminder that CPPE are offering a free programme to help technicians develop their skills - "Community Pharmacy Technician: Advancing your Role", for details [click here](#).

### [Easter Bank Holiday Opening](#)

Amended posters and a link to a map showing Thames Valley pharmacies open on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are [available here](#).

### [Extended FP34C Submission Deadline](#)

As Easter Monday (1 April 2024) falls in the FP34C submission window, pharmacies will have an extra day, ie until the end of **6th April 2024**, to submit their March FP34Cs on MYS and to dispatch their prescription bundle to the NHSBSA. [Click here](#).

### [Hypertension Case-Finding Service: ABPM incentive](#)

A reminder that the Year 5 Hypertension Case-Finding Service ABPM incentive period ends on **31st March 2024**. This is the final incentive period with an associated payment of £400 for reaching the 2023/24 target of 20 ABPMs. Claims for payment should be submitted "within one month of, and no later than three months from, the claim period for the chargeable activity provided". [Click here](#).

### [Otosopes for Pharmacy First](#)

A reminder that, from 1st April 2024, pharmacy owners must ensure they have an otoscope available, and all clinical pathways must be accessible in physical pharmacies registered for the Pharmacy First service. [Click here](#).

### [Minor Ailment Scheme](#)

The local Minor Ailment Scheme, open to pharmacies in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) ICB area, has been extended to the end of June 2024. The ICB is particularly keen to encourage applications from pharmacies in the Reading, High Wycombe, Oxford City and Banbury areas. For more information [click here](#).

### [EHC East Berkshire](#)

The East Berkshire EHC contract expires on 31st March 2024 and the Local Authorities have approached pharmacies regarding a new contract. Due to their interpretation of a new procurement requirement that Local Authorities have been asked to follow, the LPC has been excluded from all conversation around this. As a result, the new contract has not had any contractor feedback around operational, clinical or financial criteria, and the LPC recommends that you give very careful consideration as to whether this contract is suitable for you and your business.

### [2024 Pharmacy Pressures Survey](#)

CPE are keen to hear from Pharmacy Owners and Pharmacy Teams in this year's pressures survey, the results of which will be used directly in their negotiations. The survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete, and closes on **2nd April 2024**. [Click here](#).

### [NHS Profile Update](#)

A reminder to update your NHS Profile Manager ahead of the **31st March 2024** deadline, to ensure your pharmacy's NHS website and Directory of Service (DoS) profile information is up to date. In particular, please check your Easter Opening Hours and current provision of services such as LFD. [Click here](#).

### [Data Security and Protection Toolkit \(2023/24\) Workshop](#)

A recording of the CPE webinar held on 20th March, which aims to help community pharmacy owners to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2023/24, is now available on demand. CPE and the NHS DSPTK team discuss the Toolkit questions, talk through the available guidance materials, and answer questions about making the declaration. [Click here](#).

### [NICE Update](#)

The March edition of the NICE monthly newsletter for primary care staff is now available. This includes clinical knowledge summaries, links to news, blog posts, and more. [Click here](#).

### [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#)

The March edition of the NICE monthly newsletter for primary care staff is now available. This includes links to medicine recalls and healthcare letters for the period. [Click here](#).

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## Training & Events

### [CPPE Workshops](#)

The CPPE Workshop calendar for April to June 2024 has been released. This includes the following new topics:

- NHS Pharmacy First: Clinical assessment – essential skills online workshop
- Lewy body dementia
- Optimising adherence to medicines in asthma
- Supporting people living with dementia
- Neurology in primary care
- Preparing to train as an independent prescriber

For the full calendar and booking links, [click here](#).

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Community Pharmacy Thames Valley

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