

Weekly News Digest - 4th April 2024

[NHS Prescription Charge](#)

DHSC is currently unable to confirm whether or not NHS prescription charges will be raised in 2024. As a result, the current charges will roll over into April 2024. [Click here](#).

[May Bank Holiday Opening](#)

Pharmacies are asked to check their May Bank Holiday opening hours are correct on [this list](#). Please send any amendments to england.southeastcommunitypharmacy@nhs.net by 15th April. Please also ensure your DoS and NHS.UK profiles are updated using the [NHS Profile Manager](#).

[HRT PPC Incorrect Claims](#)

NHSBSA have reported an increase in prescriptions where patients are claiming prescription charge exemption under the HRT PPC for medicines that are not covered, such as Medroxyprogesterone (Provera), selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) and Testosterone gel. For more details and a full list of medicines covered by the PPC [click here](#).

[Pharmacy Pressures Survey](#)

The deadline for completing the Pharmacy Pressures Survey has been extended to 12 noon on **8th April 2024**. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to share your thoughts to help CPE build a stronger case to policymakers for action from the Government and NHS. [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.

Training & Events

[Online Training - Acne](#)

A module entitled "Common Skin Conditions - Acne" has been added to your Virtual Outcomes online training suite. Find out more about acne triggers, factors and treatments. [Click here](#).

[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](#).

Community Pharmacy Thames Valley

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