

## Weekly News Digest - 11th April 2024

### [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](mailto:england.southeastcommunitypharmacy@nhs.net) by 15th April. Please also ensure your DoS and NHS.UK profiles are updated using the [NHS Profile Manager](#).

### [NHS Prescription Charge](#)

The Government has confirmed the NHS prescription charge will increase to £9.90 with effect from 1st May 2024. PPC charges will also increase, for details [click here](#).

### [PCN Pharmacy Leads](#)

BOB ICB is keen to achieve greater integration of community pharmacy into the ICS at the PCN level, so has agreed to fund Community Pharmacist PCN Leads, and to support their training, development and engagement, for 2024-25 and 2025-26. Community Pharmacy leads will be expected to carry out their role on one day per calendar month with a payment of £400 per day (£4,800 per annum). For more details, [click here](#).

### [Pharmacy Undergraduate Placements, University of Reading](#)

The University of Reading School of Pharmacy is planning the next academic year and further community pharmacy placement providers are needed as they are expanding the numbers of placement days for pharmacy undergraduates in line with GPhC requirements. Ideally placement provider pharmacies should be within an hour's travel time of the university. For more details and placement dates [click here](#).

### [Change of Postal Address for SE Complaints Hub](#)

Please note that the address for postal customer complaints has changed. Please ensure all your customer communications are updated. Please details [click here](#).

### [GP Prescribing Quality Scheme 2024/25 – BOB ICB](#)

BOB ICB have announced their 2024/25 Prescribing Quality Scheme criteria for General Practice across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West. It is anticipated that all surgeries will participate in the scheme. They have put together a Briefing for Community Pharmacy which details the targets, explains the rationale, and links to useful related resources - [click here](#).

### [Pharmacy Research Advisory Group](#)

Expressions of interest are being invited from pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to join the Pharmacy Research Advisory Group (PRAG). The PRAG, which will be co-chaired by David Webb, Chief Pharmacist, has been set up to advise on implementing the recommendations of the NHS's recent report on pharmacy professionals' involvement in research. Applications are open until 17th April. To find out more, [click here](#).

### [Flu Vaccination 23/24 Evaluation](#)

The NHS would appreciate the support of pharmacies that provided the NHS flu vaccination service in to completing a short survey to help inform plans for next year. The survey will close on 26th April. [Click here](#).

### [Independent Pharmacy Awards](#)

The Independent Pharmacy Awards Programme is now open for entries, with the event for all finalists taking place on Friday 27th September at the House of Commons. Categories include Independent Pharmacist, Independent Prescriber, Pharmacy Team, Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Innovation of the Year. The deadline for entries is 15th July. [Click here](#).

### [SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest](#)

The SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest provides updates on existing materials and activities from across SPS, and signposts to upcoming events and activities. It includes resources to support healthcare professionals working in all areas of the health system and gathers activity from across SPS groups including: Medicines Advice, Medicines Use and Safety, Quality Assurance, and Medicines Procurement. [Click here](#).

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## Training & Events

### [Polypharmacy Training](#)

**12.00-13.30** on **13th** or **27th June**, **11th July**, **12th** or **26th September**

Health Innovation Network (formerly OAHSN) are running this 1.5hr webinar on polypharmacy and reducing the risk of harms from medicines for healthcare professionals. For more details and to register for **one** of the dates, [click here](#).

### [Vaping Workshop for Healthcare Professionals](#)

**18.00-19.00** on **6th July** - Online training run by the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCCT) providing information about vaping for healthcare professionals. [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](#).

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Community Pharmacy Thames Valley

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