

## Support for NHS community pharmacy contractors in Surrey and Sussex

Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex  
LPC news special | 29 January 2021

The importance of coordination cannot be understated in helping to minimise confusion, so it is fantastic to see a coordinated approach to C-19 staff vaccinations emerging and helping to significantly boost the number of pharmacy staff receiving the vaccine. Earlier this week, we circulated messages to all contractors in Surrey Heartlands on behalf of the ICS, with coordinated arrangements in Sussex being made available at the start of the month. (*Additional appointments provided by the Queen Victoria Hospital should have helped if early clinics did not meet capacity*). We are assured by the NHS locally that it will contact you – probably through us- when it is your turn. Appointments are often made available at short notice so please continue to check your emails regularly.

In the meantime, [everything we know about staff vaccines is available on our website](#).

The page is updated regularly. Thank you for your patience – it's a huge amount of work for vaccine roll-out teams across both the Surrey and Sussex systems.

Elsewhere in this bulletin you will find reminders about PSNCs pharmacy audit which we urge you all to take part in as the evidence really will help with their national negotiations; the current position on the process of becoming a C-19 vaccination site and; a survey about the seasonal influenza programme 2020/21 - national call/recall.

### Practical local support

Updates, insight and current advice to help contractors across Surrey and Sussex

#### Reminding all contractors that this week is PSNC pharmacy advice week

PSNC is gathering crucial evidence for their ongoing funding discussions with HM Government and the NHS. All community pharmacy contractors and their teams are being urged to take part in a *Pharmacy Advice Audit* on one single day this week (w/c Monday 25th January). [Read more](#) with links to a team briefing sheet and an audit template

- We are hearing that current audit return rates across Sussex and Surrey are low, currently standing at <10%. Please participate if you can.

#### C-19 vacs for frontline pharmacy staff in Sussex and Surrey

Here is the most up-to-date info made available to us, along with template letter for key workers who don't have ID and a portal for Locum staff to register their details to ensure that they are put forward for priority vaccination as frontline health and social care workers. [Read more](#)

## Becoming a pharmacy-led C-19 vaccination site

In response to many contractor enquiries, here is the current position about becoming a Pharmacy-led vaccination centre in Surrey/Sussex, as we understand from NHS England's regional team:

- Phase 1: NHS England canvassed for expressions of interest (EOI) in November, then mapped these against location-based needs (eg a gap analysis). Pharmacies around England invited to participate in Phase 1 started to go-live from 15 January
- Phase 2: NHS England has now emailed pharmacies who, by November's deadline, had expressed an interest to be a site, asking them to reconfirm their interest and/or supply missing information. NHS England's regional team will review these very soon, looking at gaps in coverage and talking to the pharmacies directly
- At this stage, NHS England have **not** requested new EOIs, unless a need in a particular area becomes obvious.

As more information becomes available we will ensure it is published in our news bulletins and on our website, as appropriate. Please do not contact us to express an interest. We will let you know if further opportunities and EOIs become available. Thank you for your patience.

## PCN / PQS

Following an increase in queries about the [announced flexible timing](#) for PQS, PSNC has provided additional FAQs jointly with NHSE&I that will help contractors who are preparing to make their declarations. Read more [PQS: Preparing to declare – additional FAQs : PSNC Main site](#)

## Local representation

Here is a list of the people and organisations your staff team have contacted and/or spoken to directly on your behalf this week to promote pharmacy, help them understand pharmacy, try to resolve issues raised by contractors in Surrey & Sussex, or get clarity on very local situations

- All CCGs and both ICS (Integrated Care System)
- Citizen engagement specialists
- Individual contractors
- IT specialists
- Journalists
- Local resilience forum
- Local government – three county councils, one city council and numerous Districts and Boroughs
- Local media
- LPC members
- Medicines management teams
- Neighbouring LPCs
- NHSE& I regional contract managers
- Parking services
- PCN leads
- Public health team leaders and contract managers
- PSNC
- Twitter – follow us @CPSS\_LPCs

## LPC meetings

LPC members meet regularly to represent, **support** and **develop** all NHS community pharmacy contractors across Surrey and Sussex, and help steer our work programme at CPSS. [By responding to this short survey](#) you will be helping to influence the agendas and discussions at the next round of meetings. Upcoming meeting dates are: West Sussex LPC 10 February, East Sussex LPC 11 February, Surrey LPC 23 February. Read [How Surrey and Sussex LPCs continue to meet throughout the pandemic](#)

## Discharge medicines service (DMS)

Now that the DMS Toolkit has been published we are planning our next steps in line with guidance from PSNC and taking account of local TCAM projects to help achieve a

seamless cross-over from TCAM to DMS. Contractors are encouraged to look [refer to information, toolkit and declaration of competence](#) in terms of preparing for the service go live.

## GP CPCS

We are planning a range of targeted engagement activities with key stakeholders across Sussex and Surrey to help keep local conversations going. Raising awareness of the benefits that GP CPCS can bring, and helping pharmacy teams to initiate local discussions on implementing the service in their areas are important. Some general practices have already recognised the value of DMS, but we'd like to see a coordinated and consistent approach across both ICS, especially as most are very busy now with C-19 vaccinations. More to follow after February's round of LPC meetings.

## Recent results

A lot of the issues we are faced with are complex and are taking time to resolve and/or negotiate

## Surrey pharmacies to provide asymptomatic testing

Negotiations have concluded between Surrey LPC and Surrey County Council (SCC) over community pharmacy Covid-19 testing across Surrey County Council's footprint. Surrey LPC approached the council with a proposal which resulted in the authority approving around 50 expressions of interest from community pharmacies. SCC is now commissioning one-quarter of the sector in Surrey to provide a regular testing service for individuals who need to work outside their home. The set-up phase is underway, with the service expected to launch next week.

East Sussex LPC and West Sussex LPC have approached their respective top tier councils about this too: West Sussex have a contract with another provider. Brighton and Hove have acknowledged the LPCs proposal. East Sussex have yet to reply.

## Other news in brief ... in case you missed it!

### COVID-19 waste management standard operating procedure - Version 4. Updated 20 January 2021

See message from [ENGLAND.southeastcommunitypharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:ENGLAND.southeastcommunitypharmacy@nhs.net) sent on 27 January 2021 at 15:35

### Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) - reminder

The latest information about SSPs (including supporting guidance), can be found [here](#) on NHSBSA website. If you have any questions regarding the SSPs please contact [nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk).

### Employers support for survivors of domestic abuse

As we continue to hear how domestic abuse is surging during lockdowns, Business Minister Paul Scully has written an open letter all to employers on how they can [support survivors of domestic abuse](#). He is not asking that employers become specialists in handling domestic abuse, nor that colleagues should take on the role of healthcare workers or counsellors. But instead wants to burst the stigma associated with domestic abuse.

- Last week we reported how the ANI codeword is being promoted to citizens who need help. Earlier this month the ANI scheme was widely publicised by the Home Office. [Read more about the ANI scheme](#), which is voluntary and do please consider signing up [here](#)

### NHS CPCS IT licence extension to 30 September 2021

Additional funding has been agreed so that all regions can arrange an additional six months for the community pharmacy CPCS IT licence for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021, on behalf of contractors. [Read more at PSNC](#)

## Seasonal influenza 2020/21 - national call/recall survey

NHS England is undertaking a rapid evaluation of the national call/recall element of the 2020/21 programme and is asking colleagues from Community Pharmacy to provide feedback [here](#). The survey will close on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. If you need more information please refer to the email sent on 26 January 2021 at 11:23 from [ENGLAND.southeastcommunitypharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:ENGLAND.southeastcommunitypharmacy@nhs.net)

Please remember to contact us using [lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk](mailto:lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk), follow us on Twitter at [@CPSS\\_LPCs](https://twitter.com/CPSS_LPCs) and to sign up to receive [PSNC news](#), if you haven't already.

Stay safe and well and do keep checking official sources of information (NHS, GOV.UK, PSNC and your professional institutions) for professional updates. We will focus our efforts and communications on how national guidance translates and impacts on us locally, whilst also cascading your concerns up to NHS England and/or PSNC

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