

# Essex LPC

## December 2020 Newsletter



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### Happy Christmas from Essex LPC

Dear Colleagues - Not sure when we started the tradition of sending you a newsletter on Christmas Eve, but in a year when almost every other aspect of our lives has been shaken up like a snow-dome it is good to keep some things the same.

It has been a privilege to represent Essex community pharmacies in 2020. Our new ways of working have presented some challenges, but nothing compared to our contractors and staff who have continued to provide essential, face-to-face services to patients during some very scary times. If there is something positive to come from the pandemic it is the increased respect and recognition for community pharmacy both locally and nationally, and we have far greater levels of engagement and representation in the three Integrated Care Systems covering Essex than we have ever been able to achieve before.

This is all due to team work, and it is great to have a bigger team now, Angela your office manager, Frank and Tony your field officers, and Mo leading on GP CPCS. This additional capacity means we are better placed to ensure this engagement and representation leads to positive benefits on the ground. We are also adopting Community Pharmacy Essex as our “trading name” as it makes it clearer to our stakeholders

We haven't always got things right, and I am sorry for that, but I do hope that overall we have got more things right than we have got wrong.

I do hope you all get to have a break over the holidays, whether you celebrate Christmas or not: As the whole of Essex moves into tier 4 we have some difficult times ahead.

The office is open all of the “non-bank-holiday” days, and can be contacted on 01245 460079 or [office@CPEsx.org.uk](mailto:office@CPEsx.org.uk)

I do hope you all get to have a break over the holidays, whether you celebrate Christmas or not: As the whole of Essex moves into tier 4 we have some difficult times ahead.

Karen



## Hopefully you will have seen your Christmas presents from NHSE

No new bikes or gift sets I'm afraid, but at least some recognition of the additional pressures this winter. Taken directly from the Gateway message, but my emphases

"In recognition of the ongoing workload pressures for contractors during the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of activities under the community pharmacy contract have now been reprioritised:

- The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2020/21 Part 2 requirements will have a flexible completion date. Contractors will still make their declaration in February and get paid on 1 April, but they will now have until the **end of June 2021** to collate the evidence to demonstrate that they are compliant.
- The Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework **will not run in 2020/21**. This will run as normal in 2021/22.
- The NHS England and NHS Improvement set audit and the pharmacy specific audit will be **waived** for 2021.
- The Community Pharmacy Patient Questionnaire will be **waived** 2020/21.
- No action will be taken against contractors who have not updated the Data Security Protection toolkit for 2019/20, provided they are working to complete the toolkit for 2020/21."

For those of you who have already undertaken audits or completed the CPPQ I'm fairly sure these will be admissible next year, the negotiations were to take pressure off those who were struggling and not to penalise those that weren't.

## Reimbursement for PPE costs within community pharmacy during the Covid-19 pandemic response

From 1 January 2021, pharmacy contractors will be eligible to claim for PPE that was purchased between 27 February 2020 and 31 December 2020 for use in the delivery of NHS pharmaceutical services up to 31 March 2021 as a result of COVID-19 infection control guidance.

Claims must be submitted on the MYS portal. Pharmacy branches that are part of a multiple should consult their Head Office on whether claims will be made at either branch or head office level. **The deadline to submit claims is 12th February 2021.**

**More details at:** <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/c-19-ppe-reimbursement-how-contractors-can-make-a-claim/>

## Discharge Medication Service

Another little stocking-filler for the New Year is the Discharge Medication Service, although this is now scheduled for February. In Essex we have had a practice run with EMOP/TCAM, imagine that but with money and you get the idea! Don't bother looking for the guidance on NHS website yet as it hasn't been published, but the payments have been agreed. Once the guidance is out we will look at how best to take this forward and merge in existing EMOP/TCAM services.



### Discharge Medication Service fees

Payment/ Fee Purpose	Payment/ Fee
Initial upfront payment for all contractors for set-up costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£400 per contractor</li></ul>
Item of service fee for contractors for provision for each NHS Discharge Medicines Service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£35 per fully completed service provision</li><li>Part completion of the service (scenarios where this can be claimed will be specified in Drug Tariff):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stage 1: £12</li><li>Stage 2: £11</li><li>Stage 3: £12</li></ul></li></ul>

## GP CPCS

We have now made positive links with all CCGs and several PCNs regarding GP CPCS roll-out, and hope to start training early in January. Any queries should be directed to our GP CPCS lead Mo, using [mo@CPEx.org.uk](mailto:mo@CPEx.org.uk)

We are still awaiting information on the £370m advance.....

## Lateral Flow Testing in Pharmacy

You will by now have seen the gateway message regarding access to lateral flow covid-19 tests for pharmacy staff. These are available to all staff, so don't forget your part-time staff, regular locus and delivery drivers.

The limit to the reliability of lateral flow tests is recognised, they are more of a screen than a test. There is a requirement to log results of the test, and positive tests on lateral flow will need to be followed up with a PCR test.

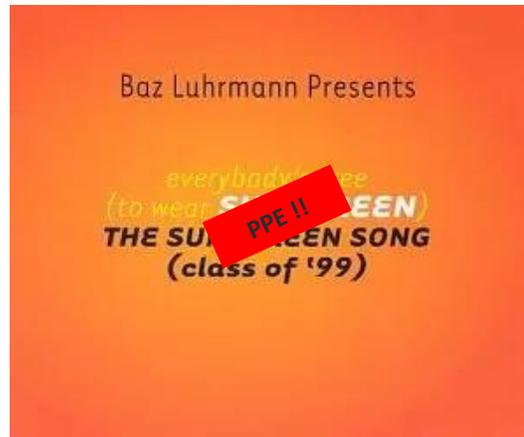


Although the testing is not mandatory it could help avoid an outbreak in a pharmacy: a staff member with covid-19 is a staff member with covid-19, whether they test or not (*cf* pregnancy testing.)

Talking of outbreaks...

## Outbreaks and positive cases in pharmacies

Couple of reminders from a few recent cases. Remember that 1999 Baz Luhrmann novelty hit “everybody’s free to wear sunscreen”? Well, to adapt it to current circumstances



“Ladies and Gentlemen of the class of 2020  
Wear PPE.

If I could offer you only one tip for the future  
PPE would be it.”

**Pause**, switch off or otherwise disable the Test and Trace app when on the pharmacy premises. Or don’t install it in the first place.

Make sure staff with symptoms access testing and **self-isolate until results are known**.

If staff access testing for any other reason still **self-isolate until results are known**.

Tell staff that if they are contacted by Test and Trace they should give **employer’s details**, not names of individual colleagues, and state that they work in a **healthcare setting**.

If employers are contacted by Test and Trace **tell the truth**. (See comments above that a staff member with covid-19 is a staff member with covid-19, whether they test or not). If you (or your staff) have been a bit of a twit we can work something out, if you have been dishonest it’s a bit trickier.

If the test and trace decision seems tough but fair then you need to follow it, to protect staff, patients and professional reputation. **If the decision seems unfair**

**then please let us know, we can escalate.** It may not change the decision but it is worth a try.

But trust me on the ~~sunscreen~~-PPE !

## **Pandemic Delivery Service reinstated for clinically extremely vulnerable patients in tier 4 areas**

The commissioned delivery service has been reinstated for **clinically extremely vulnerable** (formerly **shielding**) patients living in areas declared as tier 4. At time of writing this is all of Essex ~~excluding Uttlesford, Colchester and Tendring.~~

**Updated 23<sup>rd</sup> December this will be all of Essex from 26<sup>th</sup> December.**

~~Please note it is **where the patient lives** that determines eligibility, not where the pharmacy premises are, for example:~~

- ~~• If a patient lives in Felsted (Uttlesford) and gets their prescriptions dispensed in Braintree (Mid-Essex) they are **NOT** eligible for delivery~~
- ~~• If a patient lives in Finchingfield (Mid Essex) and gets their prescriptions dispensed in Thaxted (Uttlesford) they **ARE** eligible for delivery.~~

Of course if both patient and pharmacy are in tier 4 then they are eligible, and of neither are then they are not.

Those of you who work close to CCG or county borders may need to check which tier your patients are in, and monitor any changes to tiers that may be announced by HM Government.

## **The Essex January 2021 “So Big You Can See It From Space\*” stop smoking incentive**

*\*Not outer space, obviously*

### **Patients - No prescription charges**

Provide will waive any NRT prescription charges and HLP Ltd will cover Champix prescription charges for any patient **SETTING A QUIT DATE** in January 2021



### **Primary Care (GP practices, NHS Dental practices, NHS Optometrists) - Engagement and Referral incentive**

£5 per referral from primary care for smokers who set a quit date in January 2021 (subject to smoker attending at least 1 session following their agreed quit date) This will be presented as vouchers for practice staff.

£15 per successful quit for smokers referred from primary care and supported by community pharmacy, who set a quit date in January 2021 and who remain smoke free for 4 weeks. This will be paid to practice account.

### **Community Pharmacy - Recruitment incentive**

£10 per smoker recruited in the pharmacy, who set a quit date in January 2021 (subject to smoker attending at least 1 session following their agreed quit date). This will be presented as vouchers for advisor(s)

### **Conversion incentive**

£15 per successful 4 week quit on top of usual £75 paid to contractor, for smokers who set a quit date during January 2021. This will be paid into pharmacy account.

### **Update training and development requirements**

In order to claim incentive scheme payments the pharmacy **must** complete one of the update training options below. Structured training is also eligible for the incentive scheme **bursary scheme** payments.

Either:

#### **Attend at least one HLP webinar (not industry run!) from**

- Stop Smoking as a Healthy Living Pharmacy priority (links in with new essential service)
- Getting more out of PharmOutcomes
- Not just NRT: Supporting patient choice including Champix and vaping  
These will be run throughout January and morning, lunchtime and evening sessions will be available.

OR

#### **Structured training**

New NCSCT Level 2 advisor (online training)

Or

Completion of either NCSCT mental health OR pregnancy module (online training)

#### **Training and development bursary scheme**

£20 for new advisor completing online NCSCT L2 training

£10 for advisor completing smoking and mental health OR smoking in pregnancy additional training

**NB training bursary is available even if other incentive scheme criteria are not met.**

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The information provided to contractors cannot be construed as legal advice

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