

# Essex LPC



## April 2021 Newsletter



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### Pharmacy Quality Scheme

For those of you who submitted PQS claims but still have to meet some of the criteria - the deadline is fast approaching! You have until the end of June 2021 to collate the evidence and complete elements that you have declared as having met as part of the domains for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme, but please don't leave this until the last minute. This is because June is also the deadline for the...

### Data Security Protection Toolkit 2020/21

Following 6 month extended deadline for completion of the DSP toolkit due to Covid-19 last year, the date for completion this year is 30<sup>th</sup> June, i.e. 9 months after the last one, to gradually bring the toolkit back to its March end deadline.

### Healthy Living Pharmacy

Meeting Healthy Living Pharmacy level 1 criteria became an essential service for all NHS pharmacies from January 2021 (extended from April 2020 due to covid-19 response).

<https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/essential-services/healthy-living-pharmacies/>



From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 pharmacy contractors operating distance selling premises are required to have a website on which there is an interactive page that promotes healthy lifestyles.

### Pharmacy Collect

The service, Pharmacy Collect “went live” on 29th March, it pays a total of £450 in set-up fees (for those who “signed up” before 18th April) and £1.50 per transaction and runs to end June 2021.



Pharmacy Collect is based on accessibility and acceptability of pharmacies to the public, and it is expected that the service will be provided by counter staff.

Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

We are currently in discussion with Essex County Council regarding an assisted testing service.

## New Steroid Emergency cards

Included with this newsletter is the National Patient Safety Alert issued last August regarding the new (red) Steroid Emergency cards: The alert must be implemented by 13th May 2021.

The red card does not replace the Steroid Treatment cards (blue) and you should continue to issue the blue cards as before: The red cards will be issued to patients with primary adrenal insufficiency OR steroid dependency.

It is the responsibility of the prescriber to issue the red Steroid Emergency cards. In addition to the decision to issue a card there also needs to be a discussion with the patient about the information on the card, including the reason why a steroid has been prescribed. However, community pharmacies should hold a stock of the red cards (obtained from PCSE) in case a patient has lost or damaged a card issued by the prescriber.

**Essex LPC strongly believes that National Patient Safety Alerts are just that- National- and that patient safety may be compromised if local systems or individuals try and adapt what is in the national alert.**

We are working with CCGs and other relevant parties to push back against requests for community pharmacies to make the initial issues of the cards, as it is clear in the alert that this responsibility rests with the prescriber following a discussion with the patient.

## Chloramphenicol eye drops

Chloramphenicol eye drops Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops are now only **licensed** for use in patients aged 2 years or older and are **contra-indicated in children under the age of 2 years** by most manufacturers due to the presence of the excipient boric acid in the formulation.

We all know that parents can sometimes “stretch” the information they give when trying to purchase chloramphenicol eye drops for babies, so please be aware of this change, and advise appropriately.

General considerations:

- Most cases of conjunctivitis are viral or self-limiting, and do not require treatment. Symptoms may be eased with self-care measures.
- Most cases of bacterial conjunctivitis are self-limiting and resolve within 5 to 7 days without treatment. Treat with topical antibiotics if severe.

## Flu Vaccination Service 2021/22

On 1st April 2021 NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published the updated flu letter, it provided information on the flu vaccines which will be reimbursable under the 2021/22 Flu Vaccination Service), for the three cohorts (65 years and over, 50-64s and at-risk adults aged 18-64).

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/achievements-and-developments-during-2020-21-flu-season/>

*Community pharmacies should plan their ordering on the basis of meeting at least the numbers of vaccinations they achieved during the 2020/21 season. **Community pharmacy are expected to play a strong role in vaccinating the 50 to 64 year old cohorts** to ensure the availability of general practice capacity to continue their focus on flu and COVID vaccination of the most vulnerable clinical cohorts.*

## 'Ask for ANI'

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme developed by the Home Office to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help from the safety of their local pharmacy.

Victims of domestic abuse will be able to use the codeword ANI in participating pharmacies to let staff know that they require an emergency police response or help contacting a helpline or specialist support service.

The scheme is voluntary, participating pharmacies will display posters like this to show that they are operating the scheme.

If you wish to participate you can sign up to Ask for ANI by completing an online form



<https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/OHK4AO/>

## Essex LPC Conference and AGM

In the last newsletter we let you know that Essex LPC Conference and AGM will be taking place on **Wednesday 15th September 2021** we have now confirmed the Ivy Hill Hotel, Margaretting as the venue, (dependent on Covid-19 restrictions allowing of course), we will also arrange for the event to be on zoom. More details about the content including guest speakers will follow soon.

## Stop Smoking Incentive

Following the success of the incentive during Quarter 4, I can confirm gift vouchers will start being distributed to pharmacies during mid-May (where applicable). Well done to all those that actively got involved, it was great to see so many of you completing the NCSCT online training too.



Pharmacies that actively promote and support the stop smoking service would have received posters and leaflets recently, with the theme of “roadway out of smoking”.



As and when more restrictions are lifted for “Roadmap out of Lockdown”, more posters will follow....

## Sexual Health Service

Several pharmacies in Essex (excluding Southend-on-Sea) have already signed up to provide the sexual health service. If your pharmacy is interested in signing up, please e-mail [office@hlpa.co.uk](mailto:office@hlpa.co.uk) for more details.

## Midlands and East Medicines Advice Service (MEMAS)

The East Midlands, West Midlands and East Anglia Medicines Information Services are now working collaboratively and now referred to as the Midlands and East Medicines Advice Service (MEMAS).



This can be a really useful source of information for some of the more unusual queries, and a quick phone call and a note on the PMR may be a lot less work than a tap on the shoulder from a GPhC inspector or a NHSE advisor.

The services provided and opening hours remain unchanged. Healthcare professionals working across the Midlands and East regions can continue to access the service via the new telephone number and email address:

Telephone: 0300 770 8564

Email: MEMAS.enquiries1@nhs.net



### Community pharmacists' opinion of Falsified (Fake) Medicines

We have been asked by University of Brighton to include a small study link into this newsletter.

*We want to invite you to a survey study on substandard and falsified (SF) medicines in the UK. This study is sponsored by the University of Brighton and funded by Pharmacy Research UK (grant reference number: PRUK-2020-TB-L3-1-AS). The purpose of this study is to evaluate the awareness and practice of pharmacists regarding falsified medication. It focuses on their knowledge, attitudes and actions regarding falsified medicines. Falsified medicines are a major threat to public health, potentially causing serious detrimental health risks for patients. They are problematic for pharmacists in both primary and secondary care. Survey URL <https://brighton.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/community-pharmacists-compliance-with-the-falsified-medic>*

## LPC CONTACT DETAILS



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Our website can be found at: <https://essexlpc.org.uk/>

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*The information provided to contractors cannot be construed as legal advice.*

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