

Wednesday 27th May 2020

Community Pharmacy Somerset COVID Bulletin

This briefing is critical reading as it contains local information to support you in your business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bulletin focuses on the local Somerset system-based factors, decisions and support available, that will impact on your COVID operational reality.

Please **read, review and reflect** on what you can usefully get from the info and **reconnect with us in the LPC** should you need anything clarified.

Please take a look at our helpful one page **wellbeing advice** for you and your team - attached.

We are here for you!

Dedicated COVID Support - The LPC has set up **direct helpline on phone and email** with extended support coverage Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Sat & Sun 9am-4pm:

Email: covidhelpline.somersetlpc@gmail.com

Tel: **07496 601495** for urgent advice and support requests.

People

1. COVID-19 testing for pharmacy staff [Please use the Somerset based service first-line]

- Somerset LPC are concerned that our pharmacy teams are not taking full advantage of the Somerset Health system offer to test pharmacy healthcare personnel rapidly and locally.
- Please ensure that your teams, including those who are currently self-isolating due to suspected symptoms of COVID-19, are fully briefed about this great support negotiated by your LPC. This is a key part of your duty of care for your teams; please follow the advice on our website to get any affected individuals in your teams tested and to keep them available for work.

[Somerset COVID-19 testing procedures for staff.](#)

- At present the logistically easier choice is through the Somerset Health and Care system micro-testing sites set up across four locations in Somerset (Taunton, Shepton Mallet, Yeovil and Bridgwater). Community pharmacy staff are included in frontline worker support.
- There are South West based national units, the nearest ones being, [Exeter \(Honiton Rd, Park and Ride, junction 29, M5\)](#) and [Bristol Airport \(Silver Zone car park\)](#) should the local test service not have availability. [Click here](#) for information about eligibility and how to access testing at a **National Test Centre**.
- Please notify the SW NHSE-I Primary Care Team if you have any issues with service delivery during this time - email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

2. 'Somerset Community of Pharmacy' [Optional wellbeing support for the whole pharmacy team]

Your LPC would like to offer live support for you and your whole team via regular weekly Zoom sessions. These will provide an opportunity for you to share any experiences, ask any questions and generally talk to others who understand the work environment you are in. These will be held on Mondays 1:00-2:00pm. Please dip in and out as convenient to you; you don't need to commit to a whole hour! Bring your whole team or some of your team.

How

- Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84809183476>
- Password: 921788 (Same login details each week).

Theme

- The theme for the next week meeting on 1st June will be, "**how are you feeling?**"
Apologies to anyone who tried to join the meeting on 18th May, unfortunately we had some technical issues.

3. Pharmacist Support launches ACTnow wellbeing campaign

- [Pharmacist Support](#), the profession's independent charity, has launched a new ACTNow campaign to help pharmacists and pharmacy students to prioritise their wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The campaign encourages community pharmacy teams to:
 - Allow time for wellbeing
 - Consider needs of your colleagues
 - Take action
- As part of the campaign, Pharmacist Support has developed a central resource hub, named the [Wardley Wellbeing Hub](#), where you can take ACTION to manage those every day pressures and worries.



4. Criteria for registering pharmacists on a provisional basis as part of the response to the pandemic [For information]

- The GPhC has agreed a policy for registering pharmacists on a provisional basis as part of the response to the pandemic.
- Further details including a policy; ***Initial education and training standards for pharmacists: criteria for registering provisionally*** can be accessed [here](#).

5. HEE e-LfH COVID-19 programme [Recommended for you to complete]

- Health Education England e-Learning for Healthcare (HEE e-LfH) has a [COVID-19 e-learning programme](#) available for those working in and returning to healthcare, including allied health professionals, doctors, nurses, pharmacy staff, radiographers and care workers.
- Please consider completing this learning that you can access [here](#).

A blue banner for the HEE e-LfH COVID-19 programme. At the top left is the 'e-LfH' logo. At the top right is the 'NHS Health Education England' logo. The main text reads: "We are supporting those who work in and are returning to healthcare". Below this, it says "The e-LfH Covid-19 programme has been launched" followed by a large "1,000,000" and "times since it went live." To the right of the text is a small image of a smartphone displaying the programme interface. At the bottom left is the "CORONAVIRUS PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS" logo. At the bottom right is the website address "www.e-lfh.org.uk/coronavirus".

6. RPS survey - Pharmacy in a COVID-19 world: we want your views [open to RPS members and non-members]

- The past few weeks have been challenging, with many changes made to pharmacy practice so pharmacists and their teams can care for patients safely.
- Are they for the better? Could they transform the future of pharmacy practice? Tell us what you think in our short survey below.
- Your answers will help us support you to adapt to the new pandemic landscape, shape future policy and lobbying activity, and engage with other professions and external stakeholders.
- You will find the survey which is open to members and non-members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society [here](#).

Operations

1. Influenza vaccination service [Please read]

- The LPC are working closely with national bodies like NHSE-I, regional stakeholders including the CCG and Somerset County Council about how best we can deliver a successful FLU campaign.
- Our aim at the LPC is to encourage all contractors to maximise the vaccination service and will endeavour to support you to achieve this. The [national flu immunisation programme 2020/21 letter](#) published on 14 May provided some guidance on what we should expect this year; please familiarise yourself with this.
- We will keep you updated going forward on any guidance/changes as they happen.

2. Guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published [Please read]

- Pharmacists who provide services to support people dependent on drugs or alcohol are encouraged to ensure they are familiar with the guidance.
- The guidance highlights that people who misuse or are dependent on drugs and alcohol may also be at increased risk of becoming infected, and infecting others, with coronavirus (COVID-19). People in these groups may also be more vulnerable to poor health outcomes due to underlying conditions.
- The guide covers a range of topics and provides additional sources of support that community pharmacies can use to further assist people through signposting.
- Learn more and read the guidance [here](#).

3. Buprenorphine oral lyophilisate (Espranor®) pack size change

From June 2020, Ethypharm will be changing Espranor® packaging for both the 2mg and 8mg dose strengths from a pack of 7 wafers to a pack of 28 wafers. Once the current supplies of the Espranor® 7 pack have been exhausted it will be discontinued.

4. Varenicline (Champix®) PgD online training [Book now]

This training is for pharmacists who deliver the Varenicline PgD community pharmacy service in Somerset and are due an update or those who are planning to start delivering the service. We need to provide this service from more pharmacies across the county, so please consider signing up. We know that outcomes from COVID-19 are worse for those people who smoke so this is a way that you could help. If you are a locum pharmacist this training is also for you if you work in any pharmacies providing or planning to provide the service.

Dates (all 7:00-9:30pm online):

- Tue 16 June 2020
 - Thu 24 September 2020
 - Wed 18 November 2020
- Email: anne.somersetlpc@gmail.com to book your place.

Customers

1. Shielded patients lists for use by community pharmacies [Action]

- As included in last week's bulletin your LPC has been working closely with our Somerset primary care and system leaders to make the process easier for your pharmacy to find your "shielded patients" so you can enable an effective delivery service to those patients in need.
- Somerset CCG has said that the response to this request has been very positive and they are encouraging all surgeries to provide the lists of shielded patients to community pharmacies.
- Please ensure you action the emails as you receive them as per the bulletin dated 20 May 2020.
- Please contact yvonne@somersetlpc@gmail.com if you have further questions.

2. MHRA: Coronavirus (COVID-19): new dedicated Yellow Card reporting site for medicines and medical devices [For information and action, if applicable]

- Health professionals are being asked to be vigilant for any potential safety issues associated with medicines and medical devices used in COVID-19 treatment.
- Use the new dedicated COVID-19 Yellow Card reporting site to report:
- All suspected side effects associated with any medicine used in patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, including medicines to manage long-term or pre-existing conditions, and unlicensed medicines or medicines used off-label.
- Medical devices incidents related to COVID-19.
- For non-COVID related side effects from medicines please continue to report through the standard Yellow Card website, which can also be used for defective or falsified medicines and medical devices (including fake COVID-19 testing kits).
- Reporting to the new site will enable the MHRA to rapidly identify new and emerging side effects and medical device incidents in COVID-19 treatment, including side effects for medicines taken by patients to manage long-term or pre-existing conditions.

Finance

1. Turning Point supervised consumption payments [Action]

- Dr David Bremner, Medical Director, Turning Point issued a position statement regarding Supervised Consumption stating:
*"Turning Point remains committed to supporting our community pharmacy partners during the Covid-19 pandemic.
Supervised consumption rates have fallen dramatically as a result of our service users complying with social distancing, shielding and isolation as well as in response to availability of this service in community pharmacies.
Turning Point has decided to pay the average costs of the last 6 months of supervised consumption to their community pharmacy partners.
So, in April 2020, we will pay the equivalent of the average of our supervised consumption spend for October 2019 to March 2020 and May 2020 the equivalent of the average of our supervised consumption spend for November 2019 to April 2020.*

We feel this is an accurate predictor of this spend compared with a “stand-alone” monthly figure.

Given the considerable cost implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, Turning Point remains committed to paying the average of the previous 6 months of supervised consumption spend, for the next 6 months i.e. April 2020 to September 2020.”

- **[Action] Please check that you are receiving these payments.**
- Contact Yvonne Lamb yvonne@somersetlpc@gmail.com if you have not started to receive these payments, or have any questions.

2. Claiming for Early May Bank Holiday payments [Action]

- Contractors should submit their claim for opening on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May) of £250 per hour payment using the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) between 25th May 2020 - 22nd June 2020.
- Contractors who remained open on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May) as per a local agreement with NHSE-I should only claim for payment as outlined above for up to 3 hours per day based on the number of hours they were open. If they were open for more than 3 hours, the balance must be claimed from the regional team as per local agreement.
- This payment will not appear on the FP34 Schedule of Payment; the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) will provide confirmation of payment via individual contractor letters.

3. COVID End of life (EOL) care packs [Thanks]

- The LPC are extremely proud of all our contractors who have worked so hard under the most extreme pressures the last few weeks. At the very beginning of the pandemic, the LPC were approached by system leaders and asked to support the population of Somerset during this crisis.
- One of the ways we were asked to support was for all Pharmacies engaging in the COVID EOL care packs. As a thank you from the system for our help we have obtained £100 per pharmacy in Somerset to compensate for our time of obtaining the drugs and printing the information for patients.
- Please let your Head Office, Area Managers and Superintendent pharmacists to expect to receive this payment shortly.

LPC contact details and useful resources

LPC contact details:

- CEO: Michael Lennox. Tel: 07798 861866. Email: michael.somersetlpc@gmail.com
- Engagement Officer: Yvonne Lamb: Tel: 07932 952497. Email: yvonne.somersetlpc@gmail.com
- Administration Officer: Mary Pennington. Tel: 077142 14811. Email: somersetlpc@gmail.com

If you wish to contact any other LPC Member, visit our website at: [LPC members and officers.](#)

Useful resources:

- NPA: www.npa.co.uk/coronavirus-updates/
- PSNC: [COVID-19](#)
- [NHS \(COVID-19\) Community Pharmacy Standard Operating Procedure](#) and [Contact details for Community Pharmacy SOP](#)
- [Somerset LPC website](#) - updated on a daily basis.



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