



Newsletter



For community pharmacy contractors in Surrey and Sussex
Issue 1: January 2019

Welcome to 2019

We are very excited to bring you our very first (bumper!) newsletter of the year and to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year. After every round of LPC committee meetings we hope to be able to bring you news about what's happening in politics, education and training for community pharmacists across Surrey and Sussex and to share all the exciting innovations that are happening to transform our sector. And, because our environment is changing at pace and some things just can't wait, we're also going to introduce a regular round-up of news-in-brief, which we want to send to you fortnightly. These two new ways, alongside more targeted and branded emails should make it easier for you to access information that is as accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive as possible.

Where you see this sign ➤ you should be able to click on the blue text for more information.

Is community pharmacy seeing a rise in aggressive and violent incidents?

That's the question we raised at this month's three LPC meetings and anecdotal feedback from LPC members suggests it could be, with a number of incidents reported over Christmas. All three LPC's have now asked us to raise these issues with NHS England and PSNC, and we are doing that. To help our discussions we need to collect examples that we can share as part of our conversations. Please take our [short survey here](#) before midday on 29 January.

We'll collate the feedback for a meeting with NHS England on 30 January and let you know next steps. And in the meantime, if you want to promote a zero tolerance message in your pharmacy you could [print and display one of these posters from NPA](#).

The rising cost of generic medicines to community pharmacies

LPC members are concerned about how much you are struggling to obtain many common medicines at, or below, prices published in the drug tariff, with many of you paying highly inflated prices. Committee members discussed how PSNC has taken this up nationally on your behalf and noted how PSNC needs evidence to show to ministers.

Quality payments

Our very popular *call-in-clinics* are underway to help contractors and/or offer clarity with this essential process. Our team has already spoken with over 40 contractors. The next clinic is on Wednesday 23 January 2019. All you need to do is call:

- Hinal on 07483 172 585 between 11am and 9pm or James on 07483 176 893 between 6.30pm and 9pm

- Call back later if lines are busy

PSNC have published a number of excellent resources to help you. See [key briefing](#), [FAQs](#) and [guidance documents](#). Here's also a link to [updated gateway criteria on NHSBSA website](#)

NHS England campaigns 2019

Each year pharmacies are required to participate in up to six public health campaigns at the request of NHS England. This involves the display and distribution of leaflets provided by NHS England. The following campaigns and timescales have been agreed for 2019/2020.

1.	Mid-February to mid-March	Help Us Help You Pharmacy campaign (formerly Stay Well Pharmacy)
2.	Mid May to mid June	Children's oral health/Smile Month
3.	September	Antimicrobial resistance
4.	October	Stoptober

- [Use this form](#) to report medicine shortage where the product can only be obtained at a price higher than the Drug Tariff listed price and submit it along with a scan or photo of the invoice you have received from your wholesaler
- Also see PSNCs position statement on [Branded Generics](#)

Safe disposal of medicines and sharps

Did you know that:

- from 31 January 2019 community pharmacists must not accept sharps of any kind from patients. Instead they should refer patients to their local authority.
- at last count over 300 pharmacy contractors across Kent, Sussex and Surrey **HAD NOT** registered for the new waste contract which NHS England started with Anenta on 1 October 2018. It only takes a few minutes to register with Anenta; please do it soon.
- [Here's our most up-to-date information about safe disposal of waste along with instructions on how to register with Anenta and a list of all local authorities in Surrey and Sussex](#)

News in Surrey

- North West Surrey CCG Pharmacy Network event – 6/2/19 @ 6pm. For more information and to book a place email [Surrey medicines management team](#)
- Butec has been announced as preferred brand of Buprenorphine 5,10,15 and 20 microgram patches. See [Surrey PAD](#) (prescribing advisory database) and [Guildford and Waverley Joint Formulary](#)
- We are really excited about our [new partnership with Surrey Heartlands CCG to develop BP+ in Surrey](#). Hinal Patel, our service development & support pharmacists has already started work on the specifications and we are looking forward to the new service being launched later in the year.
- This month Surrey's public health team is:
 - surveying health and social care professionals to better understand local needs and evaluate their drug and alcohol detoxification services. Community pharmacists in Surrey have been invited to participate before 9am on Monday 4 February.

5.	November/December	Help Us Help You main campaign (formerly Stay Well this Winter)
6.	January 2020	Alcohol

Campaign packs for the February campaign will be sent from NHS England in the week of 28 January. Further information on the other campaigns, including which resources will be provided to pharmacies, will be available in due course. Read more on the [PSNC website](#)

Planning for Brexit

The Government is preparing contingency plans to ensure the continued supply of healthcare services and medicines in the event of a no-deal Brexit. PSNC is representing us at national level, and there is a lot of information starting to filter through, including: serious shortage protocols, NHS England advice and letters to frontline health professionals. Please check psnc.org.uk/Brexit regularly for the most up-to-date information and look out for emails to your [NHS shared mail account](#).

Drug tariff

The deadline to tell NHSBSA how you would like to receive your copy of the drug tariff passed on 10 Jan. From next month pharmacies will not receive a paper copy of the drug tariff unless they have opted-in to continue to receiving paper copies. Contractors who chose not to opt in, will continue to receive one copy of the drug tariff in January every year and will then need to access the PDF or Electronic versions on NHSBSA website.

- See also PSNC's [Drug Tariff watch](#), where they highlight changes to the DT every month
- Drug tariff training (West Sussex contractors) 28 January, evening. [Book here](#).

NHS smart cards

An LPC Surrey member has recently told us of a problem with his NHS smart card. It had expired without warning. We are looking into this with NHS England and until we can understand what happened we urge all contractors to keep-an-eye on the expiry dates of their cards and renew well in advance if your date is approaching. [Here is our most up-to-date information](#).

How was your Christmas and New year?

Were you open on the recent bank holidays? If so, we'd like to hear from you. NHS England have started to plan for **Easter opening 2019**. What can we tell them about the last bank holiday opening that might help this

The [survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete](#).

- contacting pharmacies by email to confirm the renewal of Public Health Agreement services in the county for 2019-20. Look out for any emails and please complete and sign the renewal documents that will be attached, checking for deadlines.

News in East Sussex

- Save the date 12 March (evening): all community pharmacists should note the date for the hospital referral to community pharmacy clinical handover. More to follow.
- Be aware that [two GP practices have joined the EPS phase 4 pilot](#), giving potential for any community pharmacist to receive a token
- Please remember that recent changes to gluten-free products on prescription for patients with dermatitis herpetiformis and coeliac disease **don't** affect patients who are prescribed low-protein products for metabolic diseases such as PKU. [Please refer to the formulary for gluten-free products available on prescription in HWLH CCG and BH CCG](#)
- More community pharmacies in HWLH CCG area are being encouraged to sign-up to NUMSAS as lower numbers are making referral of patients from 111 and Out of Hours Doctors difficult within the area. [Find out about NUMSAS](#).
- EHS and H&R CCGs have [updated their guidance on formulary approved blood glucose testing](#) to include four cost-effective meter choices for patients with Type 2 Diabetes (Omnitest, Accu-Chek Performa Nano, GlucoRx Nexus and GlucoMen Areo)
- The fax machine at Bexhill Hospital has been switched off so please send your quarterly audit submissions for *Just in Case (JIC)*, locally commissioned service, by email to the address on the submission form, or post to the primary care team at Bexhill Hospital.
- GP's in EHS and H&R CCGs are working with NHS endocrinologists to review all patients currently on **liothyronine**. Some patients are likely to stop treatment and community pharmacies will therefore see fewer prescriptions for liothyronine going forward. Please contact the [medicines](#)

process? [Leave your feedback here](#), before midday on 29 January, if you can. More on Easter opening as soon as we have the information to share.

Training

West Sussex LPC for West Sussex contractors

Drug tariff training (West Sussex contractors)

- 28 January, evening. [Book here](#).

From other training providers

Smoking cessation level II – intermediate for health care professionals to set up and run smoking cessation clinics. (contractors in Brighton and Hove only)

- 6 and 13 February, daytime. [More info and how to book](#).

News in West Sussex

- Good luck to everyone involved in providing [the new alcohol service](#). Here's the [webinar-on-demand](#) for those who missed it, or just want a reminder. The West Sussex [list of services](#) was updated on 7 Jan to include this service.
- Read public health's most recent newsletter – [January 2019](#)
- The West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has now published its revised Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy -*Start Well, Live Well, Age Well* and you are invited to give your feedback and comments. The best way to access the draft Strategy online is through the [West Sussex Have Your Say Consultation Hub](#). Please take a few minutes after reading the draft strategy to complete the [online](#) survey to give your feedback. The consultation closes on Sunday 27 January 2019.
- We have responded to the NHS Improvement consultation seeking views about priorities for the Medicines Safety Programme. [Read our submission](#)
- Coastal West Sussex are auditing third party requests for prescriptions in GP Surgeries over the next few weeks until the end of March. If your pharmacy operates a "managed repeat" prescription re-ordering service, we would recommend this is a good time to ensure your policies are being applied in practice. We know in most cases these services operate to a high standard and are managed effectively. However, the CCG has shared some reports of inappropriate management by individual pharmacies.

And finally ...

It's good to share ... we are delighted that, at last count, five other LPCs have copied our deadline

[management team at the CCG](#) if you have any questions.

- Notes from [meeting with Brighton and Hove's public health team](#)
- Goodbye to LPC committee members Alex Lloyd, who is leaving pharmacy to pursue other career options, and Sandy Jack who has stood-down from the committee but still working in pharmacy. We wish you both well and thank you both for your support over your time on LPC. Work has already started to fill these vacancies

tracker and are now providing the same for their contractors. Well done us!!

Your next (smaller!) newsletter is due out on, or around 28 March, with at-a-glance news round-ups planned for every other Thursday from 7 February.

Please send items for inclusion to lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk marked 'FAO Sandra'



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