

Here are some of the stories to be aware of from this week. Please share with all staff.

## LPC News

- We often respond to **consultation papers** issued by regulators, government agencies and partners. Here is a selection of [our most recent responses](#)
- Earlier this month James Wood, our chief executive officer, met with **Caroline Lucas MP** to talk about community pharmacy and the various services you offer, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing our sector. [Read our news story](#)
- We have started thinking about our local response to the **NHS Long-Term and GP funding package** and what it means for you. Read our blog [here](#) – let us know your views by emailing [lpc@communitypharmacys.co.uk](mailto:lpc@communitypharmacys.co.uk) as your LPCs across Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex will be meeting in the next few weeks to consider this & work out a more detailed plan of action

### East Sussex LPC

- **EPS phase 4:** [Read our feedback](#) to the implementation team who are now gathering information from the pilots to feed into decisions about the national rollout. [More about EPS Phase 4](#)

### Surrey LPC

- We are working with Surrey Heartlands STP around the launch of a need [Blood Pressure+ and AF service](#) and contractors that have expressed an interest should expect a response in the next 7 days about provider selection.

### West Sussex LPC

- NHS Coastal West Sussex CCG is consulting with us on views on the supply of dressings and associated prescribing issues. Please let us have your views from the dispensary bench and feedback by emailing [lpc@communitypharmacys.co.uk](mailto:lpc@communitypharmacys.co.uk)

## PSNC news

- PSNC has published a 2<sup>nd</sup> round price concessions for February granted by DHSC. [View here](#)

## NHS England and Public Health England news

- **Only one week left to complete the Quality Payments online declaration** before the deadline of Friday 1st March 2019 at 11.59pm – for a quick guide to declaration see [here](#). We have been supporting contractors across Surrey & Sussex through 1:1 support and call in clinics – great participation by the majority of pharmacies in our area.
- Changes to GP clinical systems are being made ahead of [pregabalin and gabapentin being classified as Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs](#) on 1 April.
  - EMIS general practice clinical system will have been updated by 15 February 2019. After this date repeat prescriptions for pregabalin and gabapentin which have previously been issued as EPS scripts, will revert to being issued via paper FP10 **prescriptions**.
  - Be aware that this could cause some operational issues and increase the likelihood of errors, especially if a patient's other prescription items are issued via EPS, there is a risk that the paper script for pregabalin or gabapentin may not be collected from the GP practice.
  - **Pharmacy teams will have to be alert to this risk and should advise patients that the paper script will need to be collected from the practice** (or the pharmacy could offer to collect the script for the patient if you provide a prescription collection service!)
- The Government has announced an **increase to the NHS prescription charge** of 20 pence, to £9.00 per prescription item. This change will come into effect from 1st April 2019.

## Public health, CCG and other partners news

### Surrey

- We helped Surrey Downs CCG with [a half-page advertorial](#) to promote the current NHS campaign, [#PharmacyAdvice](#). Did you see it on Friday 15 February? They also arranged [digital advertising to 'takeover' paper's website](#) on Wednesday 13 and 20 February.

### East Sussex

- TCAM is about keeping patients safe when they transfer between care providers, and it's going live in East Sussex in April. One person from each community pharmacy in the county is encouraged to attend the clinical handover event on 12 March. **To register and [Read more here](#)**

### West Sussex

- Read this month's [Heads-up](#), the newsletter from Healthwatch West Sussex, has been published with community pharmacy mentioned on page 1.
- Read the latest [bulletin from St Catherine's Hospice](#): In this edition they are highlighting the important role that community pharmacy plays in supporting patients in the last weeks and days of life.

## In the news

### Supply of medicines

- This [patient information leaflet from PSNC](#) is available for you to download and print and will help you respond to patients if any express concern over the supply of medication post Brexit.
- PSNC has also prepared other communications materials to help us all with queries. We have been sharing the briefing sheet called [Drug Shortages Briefing for Prescribers: Information about medicines supply issues](#) with some of our stakeholders to help GPs, CCGs and other NHS prescribers understand community pharmacy's position. Please also share it within your networks if you think this is important.
- Media attention on this topic has reduced, however it has not disappeared. **If you receive any enquiries from the media** you, of course, have full authority to comment, but be sure to consult your organisational policy. However, you might prefer to refer them on to the LPC via CPSS, or contact us to help you decide on a course of action and agree a statement.

## Training & events news

- ORIEL Reminder: National Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment 2019 (2020 intake) via ORIEL. Here is [a reminder to submit your programme information for Oriel](#) if you haven't already done so. The deadline to submit your employer information is 11.59pm on 1 March 2019.
- Colleagues managing a pre-registration pharmacist should have seen the new TRAS guide by Health Education England for some weeks now, to help support trainees. [Here is a link to an evaluation of the guide](#) – please spare a few minutes to answer the evaluation questions.

### East Sussex

- TCAM is going live in East Sussex in April 2019. One person from each community pharmacy in the county is encouraged to attend the clinical handover event on 12 March. [Read more here](#)

### West Sussex

- Now that the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) has been published, CCGs in West Sussex want to talk with their communities about it and the areas that they need to focus on to ensure services remain sustainable and right for patients. [Find out more](#) We encourage local pharmacy teams to consider attending, although we will be responding on your behalf.
- **Health and wellbeing marketplace**: this drop-in event on 14 March is for anyone in the county working with adults and older people. Good for extending knowledge of the activities, services and products available locally to support people to live well, be healthy and stay independent in their own home

### West Sussex & Surrey

- **NHS Healthcheck Community Pharmacy all day workshop**: Is your pharmacy commissioned to provide NHS Health Check services? There is an event coming up to train staff from Surrey and West Sussex pharmacies to deliver these services. These events are for all staff in pharmacies that are already providing the NHS Health Check service. [Find out more here.](#)

## Pharmacy resources

- Have you seen these [useful resources from Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group](#) to help pharmacy teams with LASA (look-alike, sound-alike) medicines?

### Keeping you informed. Look out for:

- *Issue 3 of News and Headlines* on 7 March
- *Your next Newsletter* on, or around, 28 March
- [View news archive](#)

Our newsletters and news round-ups are constantly evolving and we welcome suggestions for articles and accept submissions from partners and people with shared interests, but cannot always guarantee inclusion. Please submit your text to [lpc@communitypharmacys.co.uk](mailto:lpc@communitypharmacys.co.uk) marked '**FAO newsletter**' at least one week in advance of the distribution dates above.

Throughout you will find links in blue to external websites. Although we make every effort to ensure these links are accurate, up to date and relevant, Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex cannot take responsibility for pages maintained by external providers.

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