

## PQS 2023/24 Information

### Last Chance to Make Your Claim – The Deadline is 11.59pm Tomorrow!

The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2023/24 declaration period is **open until 11.59pm tomorrow (Friday 1st March 2024)**. Pharmacy contractors should make their declaration to the NHSBSA using the [MYS Portal application](#). Contractors must have evidence to demonstrate meeting the quality criteria they have claimed for by the end of 31st March 2024. For advice and support, please contact Phil Wiles via email at [phil@cpwy.org](mailto:phil@cpwy.org) or via mobile: 07793 218 060.

## Services Information

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire has a Services Checklist to help contractors with the different services offered, where to claim and when to claim by. The Services Checklist can be found on our website [here](#).

### Pharmacy First – National Advanced Service

It is fantastic to see more than 95% of pharmacies nationally now offering the service, with a similar number across West Yorkshire. How are you getting on in your pharmacy?

#### Campaign Materials

You may have seen that the NHS has launched a campaign to raise awareness of Pharmacy First and the seven conditions the service covers. Adverts will run across TV, Radio, Billboards and Bus Stops. You can access campaign materials [here](#) which may help to promote the service in your pharmacy, your local GPs or other local healthcare providers.

#### Pharmacy and GP Resources

We have worked with the West Yorkshire ICB to create some helpful resources for you to utilise in your conversations with GP Practices. There is an [Aide Memoire](#) detailing suitable conditions to be referred through to a pharmacy, and a [GP IT Support Document](#) detailing contact information should your surgery be struggling to set up / send referrals through to you. Both can be accessed via the Pharmacy First page on our website [here](#).

#### Free NHS Funded Training

NHS England has released details of free NHS funded training available for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, to help develop your practice and support with providing Pharmacy First. Training is fully funded, flexible, and tailored to existing skills, experience and individual learning requirements. Learn new skills, support peer development and expand your clinical knowledge. To find out more, click [here](#). Courses include:

- *Clinical Examination Skills and Independent Prescribing for Community Pharmacists*
- *Advancing your role for Community Pharmacy Technicians*
- *Educational Supervisor Training for Community Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians*

#### CPE FAQs

CPE has updated their Pharmacy First FAQ Page – please go [here](#) for help with a wide range of Pharmacy First related queries.

## Other Information

There has been a reported increase in wait times, nationally, for GP appointments (see news story [here](#)). With the start of Pharmacy First, this is an ideal opportunity for you to engage and support your GP colleagues. Please work with your surgery to best decide which conditions you would like to focus on and how you will receive / process referrals and patients referred back. **\*PLEASE BE AWARE YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR DoS IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE AT ANY TIME\*** – we are trying to avoid situations where GPs lose confidence in the service when it cannot be reliably provided."

## Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS)

**Today (Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024) is the deadline** for opting in to continue providing the PCS if you had previously registered before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. If you have not opted in by today and you wish to continue to offer it, you will need to re-register to provide the service via the link on your MYS. This is the same process if you have never offered it and would like to start. Further details can be found [here](#).

## COVID-19 – Spring Booster Campaign

NHS England has written to pharmacy teams to provide further details on the Spring 2024 Covid-19 booster campaign. The letter can be viewed [here](#). There are not expected to be many opportunities for pharmacies not currently providing the service to offer it for spring 2024 – the service is an extension of the 2023–24 winter campaign so will be offered initially only to those pharmacies already signed up. However, where the ICB in West Yorkshire identifies gaps in provision across the county, they may look for Expressions of Interest from pharmacies in those areas. They will contact pharmacies directly so please be aware of any communication should this be of interest to you.

## Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

**NATIONAL NO  
SMOKING DAY**  
13TH MARCH 2024

### National No Smoking Day – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The National No Smoking Day is fast approaching. Please support the campaign which will run throughout March. If you provide the national Smoking Cessation Service or the local Stop Smoking Services, this is a great opportunity to promote this campaign to the relevant patients and vice versa. The campaign toolkit will be available in due course on the [GOV.uk website](#).

## Shortage Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml Nebuliser Liquid Unit Dose Vials

Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid is in very limited supply with a resolution date to be confirmed. Alternative beta2-agonists for nebulisation remain available, however, they cannot support an increase in demand. Additional guidance will be issued shortly.

### Primary and secondary care should:

**Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary.** Prescriptions need to be ordered earlier than they usually would to account for the longer lead times. Due to lead times, do not wait for licensed supplies to be exhausted before placing orders for unlicensed imports of salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid (see supporting information below). Refer to [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for further information and guidance.

Searches to identify affected patients can be found in the GP clinical systems.

## Shortage of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

The situation with GLP-1s is ongoing and unlikely to improve before the end of 2024. Some GPs have been in touch to say they are getting requests from pharmacies to give the patient a different dose or even brand of GLP-1 depending on the stock levels at the pharmacy. This is not recommended. The latest National Patient Safety Alert [here](#) specifically states "do not switch between strengths of a GLP-1 RA solely based on availability".

If a patient is unable to get a supply of their GLP-1 please ask the patient to book themselves in with either GP or their diabetic nurse. The appointment does not need to be urgent, please reassure patients GPs are looking at everyone on GLP-1s. The GP may make changes before they are unable to get stock depending on their glycaemic control/weight loss.

## NHS App Pharmacy Survey

This is your last chance to [complete the NHS App pharmacy survey](#). The survey closes tomorrow on 1st March 2024.

## Medicines Waste – Patient Survey

Qa Research is conducting audience research into medication waste on behalf of NHS West Yorkshire ICB. The insights will be used to develop a future campaign aiming to reduce medication waste, and its environmental impacts, in West Yorkshire. As part of this research, Qa Research has set up a survey, which will be live until 11th March 2024. Please encourage patients to complete the survey by printing and displaying this [poster](#) in your pharmacy. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

## Anti-Depressant De-Prescribing Masterclass

Any pharmacist who may have an interest in deprescribing anti-depressants particularly in the elderly has been invited to an upcoming masterclass on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 12.30-1.30pm. This will be presented by specialist pharmacists who work in mental health. This will be practical advice that HCPs can use. Register for the event [here](#).

## Displaying Information About the Older People's Mental Health Inpatient Services Consultation (Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield)

Pharmacies in Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield should have received a pack in the post with posters and leaflets to display to help promote the local NHS [older people's mental health inpatient services consultation](#). Please could pharmacies confirm that these have been displayed or if you need any more copies of information sending to you, by emailing [opsconsultation@swyt.nhs.uk](mailto:opsconsultation@swyt.nhs.uk). [A digital screen is also available to download here](#) for use in waiting areas if this is helpful. Thank you for your support.

## Public Health Outreach Opportunity in Bradford and Leeds

*Would you be interested in conducting some public health outreach to the Roma community in Bradford & Leeds regarding Nutrition and Hydration, prevention of infection and antibiotic resistance?*

The Roma community experience a number of health inequalities related to language, education, access to services etc. West Yorkshire ICB is currently undertaking a piece of work with the VSCE sector and West Yorkshire ICB Antimicrobial Resistance Programme and the Roma community.

During [Nutrition and Hydration Awareness week](#) (11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024), West Yorkshire ICB is planning to run two independent sessions:

- *Connecting Roma, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Farcliffe Centre, 56 Toller Ln, Bradford, BD8 8QH.*
- *Families First Team & Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) & Front Door Early Help Team – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 3pm–5pm– Crompton Centre, Leeds*

An audience of 15–30 people is expected. The events will focus on providing education and signposting on the importance of Hydration & Nutrition, antimicrobial resistance (a topic of concern within the community and health professionals working with Roma people) but could also include information on where to seek support for healthcare advice specifically infection, such as community pharmacy etc. Members of the Roma community attending will be mostly Czech and Slovak speakers, and so they will be supported by community-based translators at the events. Representation or attendance from a West Yorkshire community pharmacy whose community includes Roma people would be wonderful.

If you are interested please get in touch with Sarah Chadwick, [sarah.chadwick9@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.chadwick9@nhs.net) or Anna Crowther [anna.crowther2@nhs.net](mailto:anna.crowther2@nhs.net), ASAP by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## Discuss Diabetes and Healthy Living in Consultations

It has been estimated that there are around one million people living with undiagnosed diabetes, leading to serious long term health problems (see news story [here](#)). Community pharmacists are ideally placed to spot symptoms of diabetes and to investigate ongoing health problems during consultations with patients. Services, such as the Hypertension Case-Finding Service, are also a great opportunity to discuss healthy living and highlight risks of ignoring signs of diabetes.

## Key News and Guidance: The Latest Updates from Community Pharmacy England

Please ensure you are regularly checking your emails for updates from Community Pharmacy England. The most up to date information can be found on their News page [here](#). Sign up to the mailing list [here](#). Community Pharmacy England also has checklist of important dates for community pharmacies regarding services and requirements. See this information [here](#).

## Training and Development

- **CPWY Events** – details of upcoming events will be posted on our website.
- **CPWY e-Learning** – [click here](#) to see the latest Virtual Outcomes e-Learning modules available for West Yorkshire pharmacy teams to access!
- **CPPE Events** – [click here](#) to see the current workshops available to pharmacists, pre-registration pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, **from December 2023**.

## CPWY Connect

[CPWY Connect](#) has been set up on the social media site Telegram with the aim of connecting pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire and we'd love you to join by [clicking here](#).