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| August 2022 Newsletter |

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| **Medicines Compliance Aids (MCAs)**The West of England Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) have been working collaboratively with the local LPCs and many other stakeholders, to produce some resources, to support appropriate use of Medicines Compliance Aids (MCAs); through promotion of the range of reasonable adjustments and how assessments for adjustments should be undertaken.These free [resources](https://www.weahsn.net/our-work/transforming-services-and-systems/medicines-optimisation/medicines-compliance-aids-mcas/) have now been published and are available for use by health professionals and to educate patients, carers and families:**Watch this**[**short video**](https://vimeo.com/728815432)**where national Polypharmacy Clinical Lead and pharmacist, Clare Howard, discusses the resources and their importance.**The resources aim to promote a culture change around MCAs, through:* Raising awareness of the other reasonable adjustments available to support patients take their medicines safely and effectively.
* Supporting pharmacy teams with decision making about reasonable adjustment eligibility and appropriateness
* Educating healthcare professionals, patients, carers and the public about available adjustments, and the proper process to obtain them, to support medicines safety based on individual needs.

 **Please let us know if you have any feedback at any point around these resources.**  |

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| **Local Training**We were pleased to have Jenny Scott, Pharmacist Prescriber for Turning Point, join us at the end of July for an online training evening. This was aimed at our pharmacy teams across Swindon & Wiltshire who are commissioned for substance sisuse services.  It was a very informative and engaging meeting, with lots of questions and shared learning.  If you were unable to join us but would like a copy of the slides or access to the recording, please email sarah.cotton@cpsw.org.uk.   |

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| **Workforce Engagement Opportunity.**Please find attached a letter to all Community Pharmacy Contractors regarding launch plans for the **Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2022.**We all know the impact that the current workforce situation is having on the sector, and the critical need for high quality data to underpin the important workforce planning and investment decisions for the future. This is the first repetition of the survey on an annual basis to support the availability of better-quality data on the workforce.Please visit the [HEE website](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/community-pharmacy-workforce-survey) for further details, including Frequently Asked Questions, based on insight from the previous surveys.[Click here for the letter.](https://mcusercontent.com/cde253b9a7a0d756abff54699/files/ff6d50ed-bd18-2631-971d-5565763fdab9/2022_07_CPWS22_Launch_Letter_v4.0_HEE_and_NHSE.pdf) |

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| **Hypertension Service – Good News Story**Across England community pharmacy contractors providing the NHS Hypertension Case-Finding Service have carried out over 100,000 blood pressure checks since the start of the service in October 2021.   In Swindon and Wiltshire, the service is taking off and pharmacists are finding it professionally rewarding being involved in a service that offers significant patient benefit.  Many pharmacy teams are also working with practices to agree local protocols for referrals, taking into account pharmacy capacity, safe processes and expectations.  If you have any questions about working locally on this service with your GP practice, please contact us at the LPC.Last month we spoke to two local pharmacists who are successfully providing the Hypertension Service in their pharmacies.  This is what they have to say about the service:**How are you finding the service (any issues)?**Loving the service, showing that we can be clinical.  It is a platform to show how good pharmacies can be and how we can work together. This is of course a new service for patients who often wonder why the pharmacy is offering the service.The ABPM machine is very easy to use now, but I would recommend that before anyone's first ABPM they get the equipment out with a colleague and experiment with it. The meter does seem to use a lot of batteries.The only downside, as with every NHS service, is the amount of record keeping but this has to be done.**How do you manage the ABPM 24-hour service?**If a 24-hour ABPM is required, this is collected early in the morning by the patient and returned the following morning. There is a turnaround of half an hour so the machine is fully utilised.  **How are people accessing the service?**Patients accessing the pharmacy are recruited to the service, mainly those collecting prescriptions.  We are using labels on prescriptions for anyone over 40 who isn’t on BP medication so that counter assistants can offer the service and book them in.  We also have a system agreed locally with our GP Practices where referrals can be made and we see them as soon as possible (within 2 weeks).**Working with GP practices**A good working relationship with practices is essential.  Be as accessible as possible with referrals. The service specification states that referrals need come via a "locally agreed process", so we accept different routes e.g. electronic referrals, and we have also had referral cards printed that surgery staff or clinicians can fill in quickly and easily to refer a patient on the spot. As the service progresses we have modified some of the processes.  The practices are often having the pharmacy referral service written into their Hypertension SOP which is great news.***What is your  experience of providing the new hypertension service? We’d love to hear from you.*** |

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| **Cross-sector Opportunities**Is your pharmacy interested in cross sector working opportunities?  More opportunities are becoming available locally, as part of a BSW ICS system approach.  We have precedent of this working well, with a local contractor describing it as ‘a very positive experience for us, as it has brought into the team someone with a different perspective’.   If you are interested in this kind of opportunity as a contractor, please be in touch with us at the LPC.  |

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| **CPAF screening process has now started.**The 2022/23 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire is now available for completion. It opened Monday 18th July 2022 and will close at midnight on Wednesday 31st August 2022. Community pharmacies should have already received information and instructions on how to complete the screening questionnaire either via an email from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) or from their own Head Office.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=a4e6923409&e=46a7d3e8e8)A reminder email is sent on a Monday morning to those pharmacies who have not completed the survey – please ensure it is completed as soon as possible. |

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| ***Do you want to know more about Swindon & Wiltshire LPC and the work we are doing?***Why not visit our website and find out…[About us – Community Pharmacy Swindon & Wiltshire](https://swindonwiltshire.communitypharmacy.org.uk/about-us-2/)If you wish to attend an LPC meeting to discuss an issue, or have an item included in the agenda, please feel free to contact us./var/folders/jt/ssf8xjds2p9ghbc3vkj05ypw0000gn/T/com.microsoft.Word/WebArchiveCopyPasteTempFiles/dfdfb1c2-b609-4c0f-93db-dc8a051c75d8.jpg |

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