

**Issue 6/15  
December 2015**

## Season's Greetings From The Department of Health

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You may well already have seen this in the various pharmacy media, but PSNC has received an open letter from DH and NHS England regarding community pharmacy in 2016. Click the link to read the [Department of Health Letter to PSNC](#).



The key points are a reduction in the overall financial settlement from October 2016, and a review of how and where community pharmacy services are delivered. Although there are some potential threats to contractors this is not universal. No doubt our local and national PSNC representatives will be working on the negotiations in the coming months.

Meanwhile Essex LPC has been analysing the implications in the letter and is planning how best to support contractors and staff for some of the challenges that are clearly implied: We will therefore be holding a Spring Conference event called "Raising the Bar" on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016, which is aiming to develop resilience in Essex community pharmacies.

Make sure you keep the date free for now, and watch out for further details very early in the new year.



For calendar events and local pharmacy forum meetings visit [www.essexlpc.org.uk](http://www.essexlpc.org.uk)



**Essex LPC would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our readers and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## Things To Do In The Holidays



If you do find that you have some thumb-twiddling time during “twixtmas” you might want to get on top of some of the annual contractual checklist. There will be lots to do in the new year (see “Seasons Greetings from the Department of Health”) so it might not be a good idea to leave everything until the end of March.

### IG Toolkit and Business Continuity Plan

The Information Governance toolkit has been around for a while now, and for many of you it is a quick update, however this year you **will** need to complete the Business Continuity Plan (BCP). It may also interest (or terrify) you to know that the IG toolkit submissions (but not data) are published. Given how many patient wobbles there are about confidentiality and Summary Care Record you might not want to be seen as non-compliant.

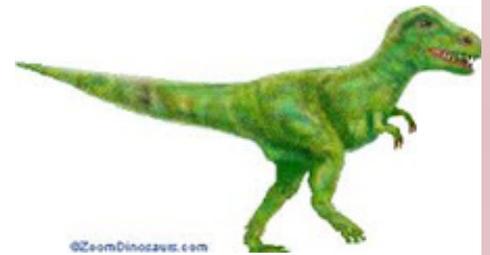
### Pharmacy-Determined Audit

Yes I KNOW we still haven’t had the results of the national audit conducted at Easter, and I KNOW we haven’t had any details about the NHS England audit for 2015/6, but you still need to make sure you have done a pharmacy-based audit of your own choosing. One rule for them...

### Community Pharmacy Patient Questionnaire (CPPQ)

Remember you not only have to DO this, but you have to PUBLISH the results.

However, we still don’t have any updated approved particulars for the pharmacy leaflet.



## Learning From Others

We have had an incident in Essex (which is going through the appropriate investigation processes) brought to our attention by a superintendent pharmacist. We are including this here at the request of the parents of the child involved; they are keen that the incident is shared to prevent a recurrence.

The child, aged 4, had been seen by a Specialist and prescribed Azithromycin 100mg three times per week for six months. The repeat prescription generated by the GP was Azathioprine 100mg three times a week, and what was supplied to the patient, was Azathioprine 100mg three times a week.

As is often the case with these things, it is apparent that the problem could have been identified at a number of stages in the transcription, prescribing, ordering and dispensing processes, however, there may have been assumptions by each party that someone else had done the necessary checks: You may want to think about what happens in your own pharmacy when prescriptions for unusual items are presented, and review your procedures accordingly.

The RPS have published professional guidance on specials this month which addresses several of these points, this guidance is openly available at:

<http://www.rpharms.com/support-pdfs/rps---specials-professional-guidance.pdf>



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## Dates For The Diary

**Tuesday 26th January 2016**

South East Essex Forum Meeting  
Start: 7pm

**Tuesday 2nd February 2016**

Mid Essex Forum Meeting  
Start: 7pm

**Wednesday 3rd February 2016**

North East Essex Forum Meeting  
Venue: Marks Tey Hotel  
Start: 7pm

**Thursday 4th February 2016**

West Essex Forum Meeting  
Start: 7pm

**Wednesday 10th February 2016**

South West Essex Forum Meeting  
Start: 7pm

**Thursday 25th February 2016**

'Raising The Bar' Event  
Ivy Hill Hotel, Margaretting CM4 0EH  
Start 7pm

**For dates of other meetings in 2016,**  
**please refer to [www.essexlpc.org.uk](http://www.essexlpc.org.uk)**

