

Essex LPC Newsletter

December 2016

Issue 5



Seasons Greetings!



This time last year we were reeling from the shock of the “Cavendish-Ridge” letter, our very special Christmas Present from DH and NHS England. We now find ourselves with an imposed contract, further uncertainties after 2018, several “quality payment scheme” (QPS) hoops to jump through to get a little bit of our money back, and no Lemmy, David Bowie, Prince or Leonard Cohen to help us out.

2017 will be another challenging year, but there are opportunities: Essex LPC will be working with the STP (sustainability and transformation plans) to ensure community pharmacy has a role other than just self-care and medicines supply; we are developing our **QPS training event for 7th February** and throughout the year, and we are really pleased that PSNC has made PharmOutcomes available for tracking this; NHS England East have recognised the need for a dedicated Pharmacy team and our relationships with the team are developing positively (they can be found at england.pharmacyeast@nhs.net); we are still able to secure good support from Industry colleagues for educational events and forum meetings, and we have developed strong links with other organisations, such as NHS Digital, Pinnacles (PharmOutcomes), Provide and North East London Commissioning Support Unit (NELCSU).

What to do over the holidays

Obviously the QPS will take up much of next year, however there are a lot of things from the “old” contract that still need to be done, such as completing the Information Governance toolkit, undertaking a pharmacy-based audit of your choosing, and making sure you have enough returned patient surveys for analysis.



Your next priorities should then be the QPS **gateway criteria** as these need to be in place by February. NHS choices will be updated on 7th February to allow pharmacies to enter the **services** that are provided. You will need to have **EPS2** enabled, and be offering at least one **advanced service** (MUR, NMS, Flu immunisation or Appliance Use Reviews.)

We will be contacting pharmacies that have no recorded advanced service activity, or any that did not complete IG toolkit last year in order to identify any support that might be needed.

You will also have to have access to an NHS mail account **that staff can use**. The following information has come out via PSNC :

Community pharmacy contractors that wish to take part in the Quality Payments Scheme must:

1. have an NHSmail account for their pharmacy by the review points (28th April 2017 and 24th November 2017) at which they wish to make a Quality Payments Scheme claim; or
2. for the purposes of the 28th April 2017 review point, have evidence that they have applied for an NHSmail account **by 1st February 2017**.

NHS England and NHS Digital have today announced that contractors that wish to apply for an NHSmail account for their pharmacy, to meet the requirement in point 2 above, can do so by emailing the following information to nhspharmacy.registration@nhs.net (by 1st February 2017):

- Trading name of pharmacy;
- Owner's name;
- Address, including postcode (for the premises the NHSmail address will apply to);
- Pharmacy ODS code (F code);
- Pharmacy telephone number; and
- Current pharmacy email address.

Contractors with multiple pharmacies may submit this information via one email, providing details for each pharmacy premises. For this reason, pharmacy teams working within multiple pharmacy groups may want to check with their head office before requesting an NHSmail address for their pharmacy.

Next steps

In January 2017, further details will be requested from contractors that have submitted a request for an NHSmail account, in order to allow the creation of a pharmacy shared NHSmail account and individual NHSmail accounts for staff, including regular locum staff, that will be needed to access the pharmacy's shared NHSmail account.

QPS first deadline



The first data capture for QPS is 28th April 2017, this includes the safeguarding criteria, Summary Care Record access, up to date NHS 111 details, evidence of referring asthma patients who have had 6 bronchodilators without a steroid and dementia friend training. Training for all of these elements will be available at our **QPS training day on 7th February**.

Wishing you all a very merry and restful Christmas, ready for an industrious new year!

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