

National updates

Pharmacy First

- Pharmacy first start date confirmed as [31 January 2024](#).
- Community Pharmacy England have provided 7 short training videos on each of the [clinical pathways](#).
- A Master PGD and Protocol authorisation sheet has been published. This master authorisation sheet replaces the need to sign appendix A for individual PGDs and protocol under the Pharmacy First service. This is available on the [CPE website](#).
- Resources available to promote the service are available on the [CPE website](#).
- Community Pharmacy England are running drop-in session on Teams for any contractor queries from 1-2pm on various dates in January and February. Access is available through the [CPE website](#).

Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS)

- From 31 January 2024 (subject to the required IT systems being in place), the service will be absorbed into the Pharmacy First service. Pharmacies already delivering the CPCS service will have been required to opt into Pharmacy First via their [MYS platform](#) by 30 January 2024. Further information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Contraception Service

- With the new changes to the Contraception Service from 1 December 2023 now including **initiation** and **on-going/repeat supplies**, pharmacies who were already signed up to the service providing Tier 1 (on-going/repeat supplies) will have until **11:59pm 29 February 2024**, to opt into the new service via their [MYS platform](#). If you choose **not** to opt in by this deadline you will automatically be deregistered from the service. Further information on the changes to the service can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Hypertension Case-Funding Service

- From **1 December 2023** the service can be provided by suitable trained and competent pharmacy staff, previously only pharmacists and pharmacy technicians could provide the service. Further information on the changes of the service can be found on the [CPE website](#).

PQS

- Community pharmacy contractors undertaking PQS are reminded that the claim window for the declaration is between 9am on 5 February 2024 and 11:59pm on 1 March 2024. Further information can be found on the [NHSBSA website](#) and [PQS important dates](#).

Recruiting foundation trainee pharmacists in 2024 (2025 intake)

- Significant changes have been implemented for the 2025 foundation training year in line with the Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists reform programme required by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). This means that recruiting via the National Recruitment Scheme (Oriel) will be **the only route to employing a foundation trainee pharmacist** for the 2025-26 foundation training year. Employer registration for the 2025-26 foundation training year via Oriel is now open. **Registration closes at 23:59 on 1st March 2024**. Further information to sign up to Oriel can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Local News & Events

- On Thursday 25 January BLMK ICB held a community pharmacy event. This was a successful evening attended by community pharmacies and stakeholders within the BLMK ICB. More information can be found on the [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

Medicine updates

Drug tariff watch for February 2024

- The Drug Tariff Preface published monthly list additions, deletions and other changes to products listed on the Drug Tariff. A summary of the changes coming into effect from 1 February 2024 can be found on the [CPE website](#).

January 2024 Price Concessions (2nd update)

- Following discussions between CPE and the Department of Health and Social Care regarding medicine pricing issues reported by pharmacy owners, the department has announced a list of price concessions for January 2024, which can be found on the [CPE website](#).

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