

Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants weekly newsletter w/c 5/2/24

National updates

Pharmacy First

- Pharmacy First started on [1 January 2024](#), and we have received feedback from some contractors that there has been some issues with PharmOutcomes access from some pharmacies, as well as surgeries. PharmOutcomes are aware of this issue and have said that anyone who signed up to the Pharmacy First Service via MYS, but missed the 19 January deadline visibility of the service, could not be guaranteed access for 31 January.
- Health Education England are offering community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians a range of fully funded, flexible training to expand your clinical skills and improve patient care. Full details can be found on [NHS England site](#).
- The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has released advice for pharmacy owners and superintendents on safely implementing pharmacy services following the start of the Pharmacy First Service across England. Full information can be found on the [CPE website](#).
- Community Pharmacy England have been responding to lots of questions on the service with the most frequently asked being added to the [FAQ's CPE website](#).
- Community Pharmacy England are running a drop-in session on Teams for any contractor queries from 1-2pm on the 8 February. Access is available through the [CPE website](#).

Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS)

- This service ended on 30 January 2024.

From 31 January 2024 the service has now become absorbed into the Pharmacy First service. Further information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

C-19 Vaccinations: NHSE extends contracts until 31 August

- NHS England has written to pharmacies currently providing the COVID-19 vaccination service to ask whether they would be willing to extend the duration of their current contract to provide the service until 31 August 2024. You will need to let your local commissioner know by 22 February 2024 if you are able to continue providing the service. Full details can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Smartcard model changes and rights extension

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NHS added multi-site 'FFFFF' (5F) codes and SCR (Summary Care Record) rights onto NHS Smartcards with the pharmacist or pharmacy technician role. These rights were due to expire on 31 January 2023, but NHS England has bulk changed pharmacy professionals' Smartcards, to extend these rights until **1 February 2027**. Full details can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Reminders

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](#).

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

- **Northamptonshire ICB** have published their monthly Tablet Press prescribing newsletter – for GP's, nurses and pharmacy teams which can be found on the [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).
- Yeut Ng (Natalie the Services & Engagement Lead for Northants) has devised a guide with tips to help non- registered pharmacy staff provide the **Hypertension Case-Finding Service**. The guide can be found on [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

Medicine updates

Category M webinar now available on-demand

- Pharmacy owners can now watch a recording of Community Pharmacy England's recent webinar about Drug Tariff Category M and retained margin on the [CPE website](#).

MHRA Class 4 Medicines defect information: Gepretix 100mg capsules (ExeltisUKLimited).

- Exeltis UK Limited has informed the MHRA regarding an inconsistency in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) packaged in cartons of the specified batches of Gepretix 100mg capsules. Full details can be found on the [CPE website](#).

MHRA issues new materials for valproate safety measures.

- This week the MHRA has issued new safety and educational materials for patients and healthcare professionals to support the implementation of the new regulatory measures. Full details can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Rolled over price concessions for February 2024.

- A list of price concessions granted in January 2024 have rolled over to February 2024, full details can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Drug Tariff Watch – February 2024

- The Drug Tariff Preface published monthly lists additions, deletions and other changes to products listed in the Drug Tariff. Full details can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Early advance payment timetable for 2024

- Community Pharmacy England have a table showing the earlier advance payment dates for 2024, available on the [CPE website](#).

Contact us:

Anne-Marie King, Chief Officer, Tel: 07889 412690 anne-marie.king@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk

Yuet Ng (Natalie) Services & Engagement Lead Northants, Tel: 07858 126974
natalie@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk

Ann-Marie Carrey, Services & Engagement Lead BLMK, Tel: 07301 203546 ann-marie.carrey@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk