



Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants weekly newsletter w/c 11/3/24

National updates

PharmOutcomes Multi Factor Authentication.

- To enhance security, PharmOutcomes have introduced a new [Multi Factor Authentication \(MFA\) requirement](#).

There is also a [Multi Factor Authentication FAQ](#) (which includes templates for Pharmacy First, Flu and COVID vaccinations).

If you have any further questions or need additional support with MFA, please contact PharmOutcomes on **0345 450 6279**.

Annual Flu letter for 2024/2025 published.

- The Department of Health and Social Care, the UK Health Security Agency and NHS England have jointly published the national flu vaccination programme letter for the 2024/2025 season.

Based on evidence that flu vaccine's effectiveness can wane over time in adults, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised moving the start of the programme for most adults to the beginning of October.

As a result, **from 1 September 2024**, pharmacies will only be able to vaccinate pregnant women, as they are the exception to the advice. **From October 2024**, vaccination of the other adult cohorts will commence, with the **exact starting date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course**. Full information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) launched a new "Get your Blood Pressure checked" campaign on 11 March 2024.

- Full details of the campaign and resources for pharmacies to use including, social media, digital screens, communications toolkit, web banners and printed "pharmacy finder" cards can be found on the [DHSC website](#).

Local News

[Message for Luton & Bedfordshire](#) from HUC re NHS 111 and Pharmacy First

- Participants in the Pharmacy First scheme requiring clinical advice or guidance while a patient's GP surgery is closed can utilise HUC's NHS 111 healthcare professional line for this purpose.

This line is accessed by **calling 111 and selecting option 3**, whereby they will arrange for a healthcare professional to call back.

Where appropriate, pharmacists should utilise the healthcare professional line rather than advising patients to call 111 – this will ensure the patient's issue is dealt with as efficiently as possible.

HUC have also produced a professional feedback form (where they will get back to you as soon as possible) which can be accessed by using a QR code. Details of this can be found on the [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

Message from BLMK ICB

- The supply of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) used in the management of Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM) continue to be limited, with supply not expected to return to normal until at least the end of 2024. This means that supplies of some GLP-1 RA preparations may be intermittent during this period.

We have had a few practices inform us that, some community pharmacists are recommending off-label use of GLP-1 RA licensed for weight management as alternative.

Please note that Saxenda® (liraglutide) and Wegovy® (semaglutide) are licensed for managing obesity rather than T2DM. Both remain available on the NHS via specialist weight management services and restricted for hospital prescribing only.

We suggest following the recommendations in the NatPSA alert : [CAS-View Alert](#) (mhra.gov.uk) and utilising the WhatsApp groups, as there are some supplies in circulation.

If you have any questions, please contact the BLMK medicines optimisation team: blmkicb.medsopt@nhs.net.

Training and Webinars

Data Security and Protection Toolkit Workshop Wednesday 20 March at 7pm.

- Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar to help community pharmacy owners complete the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2023/2024](#). All pharmacy owners are required to give yearly information governance, data, and security assurances to the NHS via the online self-assessment. Full information can be found on the [CPE website](#).
[Registration link](#).

Free UTI webinar Thursday 21 March 2024 18:30 – 19:30

- The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) are hosting a free webinar on Urinary Tract Infections. Full information can be found on [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

Reminders

Pharmacy First submission deadline extended after technical issue.

- The NHSBSA has confirmed that the deadline for pharmacy owners to make their claims for February Pharmacy First consultations has been extended until **5pm Friday 15 March**. Full information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Bank Holiday Hours

- A reminder to ensure that your [DoS](#) and NHS.UK profiles are updated with your opening hours for the upcoming Easter Bank Holiday dates (29 & 31 March & 1 April). This can be done via the [NHS Profile Manager](#).

Verifying your NHS Profile Manager profile

- Ahead of the **31 March 2024** deadline, pharmacy owners are reminded of the need to update their [NHS Profile Manager](#) to ensure that their pharmacy's NHS website and Directory of Service (DoS) profile information is up to date. Full information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2024 – available now

- Community Pharmacy England has launched its third annual Pressures Survey and hope to hear directly from everyone who owns or works in a community pharmacy.

The survey takes around 10-15 minutes to complete and is open now until **23:59 on Tuesday 2 April**. Full information and the survey can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Medicine updates

Medicine supply notifications

- [Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml nebulise liquid unit dose vials.](#)
- [Prochlorperazine \(Stemetil\) 12.5mg/ml solution for injection ampoules.](#)

Price Concessions Update

- [Changes to Category A price setting process.](#)
- [Improved prices for Mometasone 50micrograms/dose nasal spray and other products for February 2024.](#)
- [Top- up system for concession prices to be introduced from April 2024.](#)

Contact us:

Contact us page on [BLMK-N-LPC website](#) or at office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk

