

### Prescription charges to rise to £9.90 on 1 May 2024

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that from 1 May 2024, the NHS prescription charge will increase to £9.90 per prescription item. [For prescriptions dispensed in April 2024](#) the NHS prescription charge will remain at £9.65.

### Revised Schedule of payments expected in April 2024.

The look of your monthly schedule of payments (and e schedules) is changing from April 2024. The next payment schedule due to be received on the 23 April 2024 (for February 2024 dispensing month) will have several improvements.

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## Local News

### **The Community Pharmacy BLMK-N team is growing!**

We are pleased to announce 3 new temporary part time members joining our team.

We listened to feedback received from contractors and stakeholders. This resulted in the committee's decision to increase capacity to support with the engagement of services and their Implementation.

In BLMK we will have Ingrid Cruickshank joining Ann-Marie Carrey and in Northants joining Natalie Ng, will be Rita Patel. Both Ingrid and Rita have a wealth of pharmacy experience and knowledge and will be contacting you over the next few weeks to offer support.

We also have Margie O'Connell who Northamptonshire colleagues will know from her previous role in the ICB. Margie will be overseeing the delivery of DMS and SCS.

[Contact details for all can be found on the BLMK-N-LPC website.](#)

For signposting information about Spring Social Prescribing in Northamptonshire [please look up the news item on CP BLMK-N-website](#)

Kettering Pharmacies have been contacted by Dryland Surgery advising that diabetic patients will move to a 56 day supply (for all their prescription items). This is a decision made by the surgery and goes against Northamptonshire ICB's Prescribing Achievement Framework which would incentivise an adherence to 28 day prescribing. The ICB are unable to influence the decision. Introducing eRD is reliant upon a surgery wishing to engage. The ICB could offer some support to surgeries with implementation. If you would like to know more about how you could start the ball rolling, please contact [anne-marie.king@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk](mailto:anne-marie.king@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk)

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## Training & Events

### **Invitation to BLMK Pharmacy First Service Webinar Series**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the BLMK Pharmacy First Service Webinar Series, a local initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and successful implementation of the Pharmacy First Service within primary care networks (PCNs) and community pharmacies in the integrated neighbourhoods.

This series is tailored for key stakeholders, including general practice staff, GPs, nurses, administrative personnel, care navigators, practice pharmacy teams) and community pharmacy teams (pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and support staff).

The webinars, scheduled to be one-hour sessions for each PCN alignment and bi-weekly over a 3-month period (April to July), will cover a wide range of topics essential for effective service delivery, such as service overview, workflow navigation, communication strategies, troubleshooting, and continuous improvement.

**A dedicated webinar session for each primary care network alignment** to enable the practices and aligned community pharmacies in the alignment and neighbourhood to attend, which not only ensures accessibility but also allows for the sessions to be tailored to the specific needs of the practices and community pharmacies for maximum effectiveness.

Please note that attendance at the scheduled webinar for **your** PCN is required as a priority. However, if you miss your session, you are welcome to attend the same webinar at a neighbouring

PCN on a different date. We encourage active participation from all stakeholders to maximise the benefits of the Pharmacy First Service. [Read more here](#)

[Link to Webinar dates HERE](#)

### [Pharmacy First Training Day – Northants.](#)

Pharmacists regularly working in Northamptonshire are now invited by Northamptonshire ICB and the LPC to attend Pharmacy First training. Details of date, times and location can be found on the [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

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## Reminders

### [New eligible patient groups for LFD service start from 1 April 2024.](#)

Community Pharmacy owners are reminded that the lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID -19 treatments (LFD service) will expand to additional patient groups from **1 April 2024**.

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## Medicines

### **Switches:**

Sanofi are working with **Northants ICB** on the implementation of a rapid acting biosimilar insulin (Trurapi) switch. I believe around 30 patients or thereabouts have been identified as suitable already and work is still on going. Sanofi have advised your local distributors of the change to ensure adequate stock is available. Laura Meredith, NHS Engagement Manager is happy to be contacted on +44 7921 054 974 about any supply issues. She has been reaching out to pharmacies but with limited success hence this communication. The following link may help [to address queries](#).

[Find product information here](#)

### **Recall:**

**MHRA Class 3 Medicines Recall: Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Limited, OPDIVO 10 mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (nivolumab), EL(24)A/11**

**Medicines Supply Notifications:**

**Pabrinex (Vitamins B and C) Intravenous and Intramuscular High Potency solution for injection ampoules.**

**Email: [office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk](mailto:office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk)**