

National Updates

End of antiviral medicine prescribing for 2023/24 influenza season.

In light of surveillance data indicating that circulation of influenza in the community has returned to baseline levels, the Department of Health and Social Care has published an alert to inform prescribers working in primary care and pharmacy teams that antiviral medicines should no longer be prescribed.

Pharmacy Advice Audit – Due to launch w/c 3 June 2024.

As part of the Pharmacy Advice Audit, due to launch **w/c 3 June 2024**, Community Pharmacy England (CPE) will ask pharmacy teams to record information about the informal healthcare advice that they are giving over the course of a single day. The results will provide a critical measurement of the levels of unfunded care that the public receives from community pharmacies. This will help to capture the sheer volume of support being provided that is not covered by the Pharmacy First Service.

Pharmacy First – When can you claim.

CPE has published guidance to help pharmacies know when they can make a claim for payment and lists the different scenarios whether you need to make an entry in your Pharmacy First IT system.

Pharmacy First – Promoting the service to the public.

CPE and NHS England have published some resources to support pharmacy owners and their teams to promote the Pharmacy First Service.

The Circularity in Primary Pharmaceutical Packaging Accelerator (CiPPA) initiative launch.

A new collaboration approach has been launched to address challenges surrounding the recycling of medicine packaging.

To support the launch of CiPPA, there will be a [webinar](#) on **Thursday 16 May** (time to be confirmed) on driving sustainable packaging solutions in the pharmaceutical industry.

Local News

For BLMK only – Imminent launch of the Smoking Cessation Service (SCS).

Margie O’Connell is working with the BLMK LPC and ICB colleagues to support Bedfordshire Hospital and Milton Keynes to launch the SCS referral pathway from in patient setting to Community Pharmacy.

It may have been sometime since you signed up to deliver the service and should have received a recent email on **25 April 2024** to complete.

If you have decided that you do not wish to provide this service, you will need to de-register. If you do decide to de-register, please email Margie who will send you the details of how to do this margieo'connell@nhs.net. Further information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

Training & Events

Pharmacy First Training Day – Northants.

Pharmacists regularly working in Northamptonshire are now invited by Northamptonshire ICB and the LPC to attend Pharmacy First training on **Monday 13 May 2024**. Full details of date, times and location can be found on the [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

RPS Patient Standards Webinar

RPS is hosting a **patient safety standards webinar** to provide more information about what is new, who they are for and how to use them. Follow this [link](#) to register for the event being held on **Thursday 9 May 2024, 7-8pm**.

For Northants only – Practical Hypertension Training for Pharmacy Teams

The British and Irish Hypertension Society will be delivering a face-to-face hypertension training to Pharmacy teams. This pilot ‘Train the Trainer’ style event will take place at Novotel, Leicester from **10am to 3pm** on **Tuesday, 14 May 2024**. Attendance is open to community pharmacy staff who work in the Midlands. It is expected that attendees will replicate the training to their teams/colleagues. [Link to register for the event](#).

Reminders

Prescription charge rise on 1 May 2024 to £9.90.

A reminder that DHSC announced from **1 May 2024**, the NHS prescription charge will increase to £9.90 per prescription item (note: some items may incur more than one charge). For [prescriptions dispensed in April 2024](#), the NHS prescription charge will remain at £9.65.

Medicines

[DHSCs April 2024 Price Concessions – Final Update.](#)

[Products requiring reconstitution – pack size changes.](#)

[Serious Shortage Protocol O59 for Monomil XL60mg tablets extended.](#)

[Mounjaro \(tirzepatide\) 2.5mg KwikPen – shelf-life extension.](#)

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