Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 3 June 2024

National Updates

New legislation restricting the sale and supply of gonadotrophin – releasing hormone.

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has cascaded NHS England information on the new regulations to pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners to make them aware of the new restrictions.

There are two main aspects to the restrictions. The first relates to private prescriptions and takes effect from **Monday 3 June 2024**. The second affects NHS prescriptions and takes effect on **Wednesday 26 June 2024**.

It is important to note that pharmacies in Great Britain will **no longer** be able to dispense new private prescriptions dated on or after 3 June 2024 for GnRH analogues from the EEA or Switzerland for anyone under 18 years old.

NHSE opens EOI process for future C-19 vacs service campaigns.

On 30 May 2024, NHS England (NHSE), announced the start of a new expression of interest (EOI) process for pharmacy owners that wish to take part in future COVID-19 vaccination service campaigns between September 2024 and March 2026.

Claiming and payment schedule for Pharmacy First.

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) have received several queries regarding the deadline for claiming payments and when pharmacy owners will payments for the Pharmacy First service.

The service specification states, "Claims for payments should be submitted within one month of, and no later than three months from the claim period for the chargeable activity provided".

Therefore, if you have not yet submitted your claim for your February 2024 consultations (this includes consultations carried out on 31 January 2024), you must claim by **5 June 2024** to be entitled to payment. Later claims will not be processed.

Pharmacy owner views sought on the pressures of their business.

Community Pharmacy owners are being asked to share information on the pressures on their businesses, as well as key messages for the new government, ahead of the next full CPE committee meeting at the end of June.

June 2024 Committee Opinion Poll (for independents and non-CCA multiples only).

The survey will close at **11:59pm on Sunday 16 June 2024.**

Community Pharmacy England's priorities for the General Election

CPE's CEO sets out the organisation's priorities for the General Election and their response to **Pharmacy First expansion election pledge.**

Promoting NHS prescription prepayment certificates.
Pharmacy teams can help raise awareness by displaying posters in their pharmacy to remind patients about the savings they can make with PPC's.

CPCF negotiations during the election period.
CPE have issued clarification on the 2024/25 Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) negotiations.

Local News

Pharmacy Advice Audit.
Pharmacy owners and their teams are reminded that the Pharmacy Advice Audit is now underway, and we need as many of you as possible to take part before **16 June 2024**.
CPE's **audit** will gather evidence to support the case for increased funding for the sector – and capture healthcare work not being covered by the Pharmacy First Service. By recording information about patients seeking informal advice from your pharmacy over the course of a single day, you can help demonstrate how the sector is supporting communities across the country.
As a reminder it can be completed **on any day between 3 and 16 June** and should be conducted across the full opening hours of the pharmacy on that chosen day.

Training & Events

Invitation to BLMK Pharmacy First Service Webinar Series

The BLMK Pharmacy First Service Webinar Series is 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.

The fourth cohort of webinars now starting for Central Bedfordshire are on:

- **Sandhills/Green Sands/Ivel** **Wednesday 5 June** **12:30 – 13:30**
- **Green Vale Health** **Thursday 6 June** **12:30 – 13:30**
- **Titan** **Tuesday 11 June** **12:30 – 13:30**

Please note that attendance at the scheduled webinar for your PCN is required as a priority. However, if you miss your session, you can attend the same webinar at a neighbouring PCN on a different date. **Link for the webinar.** A list of the full dates and times can be found on the **BLMK-N-LPC website -Training and Events.**

Pharmacy Owners Events Programme.
As part of CPE's commitment to engaging with pharmacy owners, they will be holding a series of regional roadshow events across the country in **July 2024**. The events will be held in the evening and are free to attend for pharmacy owners only. Places are made available on a first come first served basis. A full list of dates and times can be found on the **CPE website**.

An online webinar to discuss the prevention and treatment of acute UTI's in Primary Care.
On **Tuesday 25 June 2024 1-2pm**, NHS England East of England will be holding a webinar for Primary Care colleagues for treating patients with acute UTI's.
Full information to access the webinar can be found on the **BLMK-N-LPC website**.

Reminders

Pharmacy Advice Audit starting from Monday 3 June 2024.
From **Monday 3 June 2024**, pharmacies are asked to select just **one** day between the **3 and 16 June 2024**, to record data about patients seeking informal advice (outside of the Pharmacy First service). The audit has been designed to be as straightforward as possible, with guidance below:
Team Guide – This sets out the criteria for inclusion, what needs to be recorded and how to reflect on your pharmacy's results.
Audit Template – This provides a simple way to record the required data, making things smoother to add data onto your IT platform.

Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways Consultations.
A reminder that from **1 June 2024**, as part of the monthly £1000 claim, the minimum number of clinical pathways consultations will remain at **10**. Only clinical pathway consultations that cross the gateway point and reach an outcome set out in the pathway (without onward referral to another pharmacy), will count towards meeting the monthly minimum number of consultations for the block payment.

Data Security and Protection Toolkit.
CPE has published guidance to help community pharmacy owners complete the latest toolkit. The toolkit is used to make a pharmacy's information governance (IG) declaration and must be completed by **Sunday 30 June 2024**.

Medicines

General:

Medication Safety Update May 2024.
Drug Tariff Watch - June 2024.
11 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list from June 2024.
DHSC's May 2024 Price Concessions - 2nd Update.
Drospirenone (Slynd) 4mg tablets re-classified as a special container.

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP):

SSP059 for Monomil XL 60mg tablets extended.

Medicines Supply Notifications:

Memantine (Valios) 10mg and 20mg orodispersible tablets sugar free.
Somatropin (NutropinAq) 10mg/2ml solution for injection cartridge. Somatropin (Humatrope) 6mg, 12mg, and 24mg powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridges.

MHRA:

MHRA Drug Safety Update: May 2024.
MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information – Betamethasone Valerate 0.1% Ointment (Manx Healthcare Ltd).