

National Updates

[Change to August Pharmacy First monthly threshold.](#)

The ability of pharmacy owners to achieve the thresholds for the monthly Pharmacy First payment has been a topic of great concern for pharmacy owners and Community Pharmacy England (CPE), particularly as the August increase to 20 clinical pathways got closer. CPE have been discussing this issue over the last few weeks with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England, and ministers have now decided that they intend to adjust the **August threshold to 15** in light of the concerns that CPE have raised.

[Updated information on Pharmacy First, GP Connect: Update Record.](#)

Updated information and [FAQs](#) are now available on [GP Connect: Update Record](#). Update Record is used between community pharmacy and general practice only for Pharmacy First, Blood Pressure Check and Pharmacy Contraception Services consultation summaries. Update Record is designed to minimise patient safety issues and reduce burden on practice team administration and community pharmacy. [NHS England wrote to practices on 2 July to clarify the enhancement.](#)

[Updated Incident Reporting Approved Particulars.](#)

From 23 July 2024, a new [Incident Reporting Approved Particulars](#) document has been published to the NHS England website. This document will replace the previous Approved Particular which has been in place since 2012. Contractors should familiarise themselves with the content of this new document to ensure they understand what is required should an incident occur, including being familiar with what is considered an incident.

[NHS publishes data on Pharmacy First.](#)

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has released figures for the first three months of the NHS Pharmacy First Service (covering the period 31 January to 30 April 2024).

[CPCF Negotiations: Update in light of new Government.](#)

Community Pharmacy England has been continuing to make the case for the community pharmacy sector following the General Election, but negotiations are not expected to resume before September.

[NHSBSA 'Hints & Tips' – Issue 56.](#)

The NHSBSA produces a quarterly newsletter called "Hints & Tips" for dispensing contractors.

Local News

PharmOutcomes Training Video for Pharmacy First Service.

We have added a training video on how to use PharmOutcomes to record a Pharmacy First consultation (Minor Illness and Clinical Pathways) to our [BLMK-N LPC website](#).

For Northants only – Reduced electronic referrals to Pharmacy First service.

PharmRefer introduced MFA (Multi Factor Authentication) in March 2024 for GP practices, and the ICB have received feedback that there has been a reduction in electronic referrals to the Pharmacy First service. This is mainly because the MFA instructions are to use personal mobile devices and there is no centrally approved desktop solution.

Please can this [survey](#) be completed by **Friday 2 August 2024**, which will help the ICB understand the current status of referrals community pharmacy receive in Northants. This will help the ICB to prioritise engagement with practices to discuss solutions and potentially help the central team to find a future desktop solution.

Training & Events

NHS England – #Ask About Asthma Webinar

On **Tuesday 10 September 2024 7:30pm – 8:30pm** a **free webinar** is being run to learn about how pharmacy can support improvements in asthma care for children and young people. For more information about the webinar and to reserve your place visit [NHS England website](#).

The Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) – Emergency Contraception Free webinar

On **Tuesday 8 October 2024 7:00pm – 8:30pm** FSRH are running a **free webinar** which will provide pharmacy professionals with a valuable clinical update on emergency contraception, contributing to Continuing Professional Development (CPD). For more information about the webinar and to reserve your place visit [FSRH website](#).

Reminders

Last few days to complete the 2024/25 CPAF screening questionnaire.

Pharmacy owners yet to complete the screening questionnaire are reminded that they have until **midnight on Wednesday 31 July 2024** to complete.

Completion of CPAF is now a requirement of the Terms of Service. **Therefore, pharmacy owners must complete the screening questionnaire and, if required, the full CPAF questionnaire.**

Medicines

General:

[July 2024 Price Concessions 2nd Update.](#)

[Drug Tariff Watch – August 2024.](#)

[Category M Adjustments to occur in August 2024 – imposed by DHSC with Community Pharmacy England's opposition.](#)

[3 medicines removed from HRT PPC list from 1 August 2024.](#)

MHRA:

[Class 4 medicines defect information: Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg per 5 ml adult suspension \(Aspen Pharma Trading Limited\).](#)

[Class 3 medicines recall: Atomoxetine 10mg, 18mg, 25mg, 40mg, 60mg, 80mg, 100mg Hard Capsules \(Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Europe Ltd\).](#)

National Patient Safety Alert:

[Shortage of Kay-Cee-L \(potassium chloride 375mg/5ml\) \(potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml syrup\).](#)

Email: office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk