Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 26 August 2024

National Updates

Nearly a sixth of pharmacies could close within a year, Pressures Survey indicates.

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) has released a national report confirming the severe financial pressures putting community pharmacies at risk of closure, threatening patient care and access to services across England.

NHS England confirms details on C-19 and flu 2024/25 vac programmes.

NHS England has written to community pharmacy owners to confirm the eligible cohorts for COVID-19 vaccinations and the timings for the autumn/winter programme.

NHS England extend use of NBS for flu vac.

NHS England has announced, via an email message cascaded to pharmacy owners by ICB's, that they are offering use of the National Booking Service (NBS) to all pharmacies that provide the Flu vaccination Advanced service. Previously this service was only available to pharmacies that were also offering the COVID-19 vaccination service.

NHS England is asking pharmacies that would like to take up the offer to use NBS (and who don't already have access to NBS as part of the COVID-19 vaccination service), to complete their NBS flu form by **1 September 2024**.

UKHSA issue urgent advice on mpox virus infection.

The UK Health Security Agency has issued guidance to all NHS service providers regarding Clade I mpox virus (MPXV) infection. This follows the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring that outbreaks in West and central Africa constitute a global health emergency.

Puberty blockers temporary ban extended.

The Government has **renewed** a temporary ban on the sale and supply of puberty-supressing hormones, known as puberty blockers.

EPS rolls out for Detained Estate prescribers.

NHS England has announced that from September 2024, the Electronic Prescriptions Service (EPS) will be extended to Detained Estate health services in England. This extension will allow prescribers working in prisons to issue EPS 'To Take Out' (TTO) and urgent prescriptions electronically to community pharmacies, removing the need for paper FP10 forms.

Pharmacy First myth busting series #1.
CPE have devised a series of articles to tackle some of the misconceptions around the Pharmacy First service.
Series #2.
Series #3.
Series #4.

Local News

Morning after pill services at risk as pharmacies close and make cuts.
Women's health experts have raised concerns over reports more pharmacies will shut or stop providing emergency contraception.
This comes after research by CPE showed 96% of pharmacy owners said they had to **stop providing locally commissioned services** in the past 12 months.

If this is a service that you can provide, you can get in touch with your local commissioner:

- **Northamptonshire**
- **Luton**
- **Bedford Borough/Central Bedfordshire/Milton Keynes.**

Training & Events

CPPE ACPT programme – free NHS funded places available.
NHS England have funded the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) to offer places on their **Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT)** programme for pharmacy technicians. The programme is a 3–12-month training and development programme available to pharmacy technicians, with employee support.

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**.

Reminders

BLMK & Northamptonshire LPC AGM.
Join us for our online AGM on **Wednesday 11 September 2024** at 12 noon.

Medicines

General:
August 2024 Price Concessions 2nd Update.

MHRA:
Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Trazadone Hydrochloride 50mg, 100mg capsules & 50mg/5ml Oral Solution (Dawa Limited).
Class 2 Medicines Recall: Loperamide Hydrochloride Capsules 2mg (Strides Pharma UK Limited).
Class 3 Medicines Recall: Fingolimod 0.5mg Hard Capsules (Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Europe Ltd).
Drug Safety Update: August 2024.
Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Ponstan 250mg Capsules & 500mg Tablets (Chemidex Pharma Ltd).

Medicine Supply Notifications:
Methylphenidate prolonged-release tablets.
Naltrexone 50mg tablets.
Norethisterone (Noriday) 350microgram tablets.
Creon Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules.
Isosorbide mononitrate 60mg modified – release tablets and capsules.