

National Updates

GP action: maintaining a safe pharmacy service.

General Practices across England have started to take action, following a ballot of GP partners by the BMA. This means that many practices are 'working to rule', only undertaking tasks that are included in their NHS contract.

Pharmacy owners need to maintain the safety of their services, with the safe supply of medicines being a key priority Pharmacies forced to halt services as pressure continues. Please email anne-marie.king@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk about local actions GP practices are taking and how it is affecting your ability to provide services to your patients, so this information can be shared with local NHS partners and work with CPE to monitor the situation across the country.

Protest activity across England: impact on pharmacies.

Protests and violent disorder are affecting some towns and cities across England, and this may have an impact on the ability of community pharmacies to operate. If your pharmacy is in an area which is being affected, follow any guidance being provided by the police or local government.

NHSmail multi-factor authentication rolls out for all users.

MFA will soon be mandatory for all NHSmail users. The NHSmail team has announced that users will be prompted to enable MFA from mid-August, and an MFA timeline will be introduced to support the rollout.

Community Pharmacy England and LPCs complete representation changes.

A series of documents have been published by CPE following discussion of many of the key points and themes at regional meetings with pharmacy owners this summer.

Funding and Reimbursement Shorts: Price Concessions.

A video explaining the recent improvements to the price concessions process is now available for community pharmacy teams to watch.

Local News

For Northants only – New CDAO from 1 September 2024.

Following the re-organisation of structures post the 'Creating the new NHS England' process, and the successful appointment of Bhavisha Pattani to the role of Director for Patient Safety & Systems Improvement in the Midlands, there have been changes to the ICBs covered by our CDAOs.

From **1 September 2024**, **Samantha Travis** will be the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer (CDAO) for East Midlands covering Northamptonshire. Samantha can be contacted on Samantha.travis@nhs.net or via the new Midlands CDAO Team email address england.midlandscd@nhs.net.

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

Flu Vaccination start dates and comms for patients.

The start date for the flu vaccination will be **Thursday 3 October 2024**, with an exception for pregnant women, which is 1 September 2024.

The [service specification](#) is clear that the NHS will not pay for vaccinations administered outside of the announced dates for vaccination.

Change to August Pharmacy First monthly threshold.

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.

Medicines

General:

[July 2024 Price Concessions Final Update.](#)

[Rolled over price concessions for August 2024.](#)

[New products added to the Discount Not Deducted \(DND\) list from August 2024.](#)

MHRA:

[Lagevrio \(molnupiravir\) 200mg hard capsules – shelf-life extension.](#)

Medicine Supply Notifications:

[Desmopressin \(DDAVP\) 4 micrograms/1ml solution for injection ampoules.](#)

Serious Shortage Protocol:

[New SSP issued for Ramipril 2.5mg tablets \(SSP071\).](#)

[New SSP issued for Cefalexin 500mg tablets \(SSP072\).](#)

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