

National Updates

Changes to October Pharmacy First monthly threshold – to remain at 20.

The ability of pharmacy owners to achieve the thresholds for the monthly Pharmacy First payment has been an ongoing topic of great concern for pharmacy owners and Community Pharmacy England (CPE), particularly as the October increase to 30 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 reduce the October threshold for the Pharmacy First service to **20**, in light of the concerns that have been raised.

Please ensure that the consultations have been recorded correctly on your IT systems. CPE have produced the following [guide](#) to support claiming payment for the service.

Market Entry application change – no references required.

From 1 October 2024, references will no longer be required for market entry applications. This followed concerns raised by Community Pharmacy England that they offered little value to the process and contributed to delays.

Full CPAF Questionnaire 2024/25.

All community pharmacies in England were asked to complete 10 screening questions as part of NHS England Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF). Pharmacies may be selected for the full CPAF questionnaire if for example, they did not complete the screening questions, if there are concerns relating to patient safety or they have been selected to validate their screening questions. Selected pharmacies will be notified by NHSBSA if they need to complete the full CPAF questionnaire and will have from **1 October until 31 October 2024** to complete on the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) website](#).

CPE Annual Report 2023/24.

The CPE report has been published, setting out the range of work that has been done over the past year on behalf of all community pharmacy owners.

Around 5,800 pharmacy working days lost to temporary closures, says Healthwatch England.

More than 48,000 pharmacy opening hours were lost to temporary closures in England in 2023 – equivalent to around 5,800 working days – and more than 400 pharmacies closed permanently, new research from Healthwatch England has found.

[Share your views: Encouraging people with COPD to attend pulmonary rehabilitation.](#)

Community Pharmacists, with experience in making referrals to pulmonary rehabilitation, are invited to participate in an online interview and focus groups. The study seeks to identify a way that encourages individuals to be referred for this treatment.

[DHSC Hub and Spoke Update.](#)

DHSC has informed CPE that, following the General Election where the progress of these amendments was paused, they are briefing new ministers across all policy areas. As this will take time, they are now not in a position to implement these proposals from 1 January 2025, as previously intended.

Local News

FAO BLMK- [BLMK-N LPC is seeking to employ Service Coaches.](#)

The role of the coaches will be to support implementation of collaborative services across community pharmacy and general practice with the main focus on the Pharmacy First Service.

This is a new and exciting opportunity to make a difference for patients in the community by ensuring a good understanding of the services offered within general practice and community pharmacy and to ensure the smooth running of these services.

More information on the person specification and terms can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in the role and would like more details, please email office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk.

FAO Northants - [Foundation Training Pharmacist 2025/26 Community Pharmacy Applicants.](#)

The Northamptonshire ICB Pharmacy Faculty and Workforce Team would like to understand the system position within various community pharmacy setting with regards to the readiness with **Foundation Training Pharmacist 25/26 Community Pharmacy applicants**. This will enable the ICB to understand where the gaps are and share this intelligence within the system and the region to support this programme.

If you are a community pharmacist contractor who has applied through ORIEL for the 25-26 Foundation Pharmacist Training Placement in community Pharmacy, please could you take 5 minutes to complete this form. Responses to be submitted by **2 October 2024**:

[Northamptonshire 25/26 Foundation Pharmacist Readiness \(office.com\)](#).

FAO Northants - [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) Community Pharmacy Survey.](#)

The purpose of the PNA is to identify what pharmaceutical services are currently available in an area and where services are likely to be needed in the future, because of changes to the health

or demographics of the population. The PNA plays a crucial part in supporting commissioning decisions in relation to local pharmaceutical service provision based on patient's needs. The survey closing date is **Sunday 6 October 2024**.

- [West & North Northamptonshire Council](#)
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Training & Events

[Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme: Application for PTPT Training Contribution.](#)

NHS England Workforce, Training and Education (WT&E) have secured funding to support growth of the pharmacy technician workforce within community pharmacy by increasing pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician (PTPT) training capacity. Funding contributions are for new PTPTs that have not yet been enrolled or started PTPT training, with training placements to commence between November 2024 and 28 February 2025.

Pharmacy contractors may apply for PTPT funding contributions by completing this on-line [expression of interest \(Eoi\) form](#). The deadline for expressions of interest to be submitted is **23:59 on 13 October 2024**.

[Pharmacy Show: 13-14 October 2024 – NEC Birmingham.](#)

The Pharmacy Show 2024 is **free** to attend for UK Registered healthcare professionals and those working in leadership/managerial roles within community pharmacy. Click here to [register](#) for the event.

Reminders

[COVID-19 PGD and National Protocol for Autumn 2024.](#)

The [National Protocol](#) and corresponding [PGD](#) for Autumn 2024 have been published. One key change from previous editions is that both legal frameworks now combine eligible adults and children from the age of 5, instead of remaining as separate age group documents.

[Reminder: Flu Vac – are you clear when it starts?](#)

Pharmacy owners are reminded that while the flu vaccination service can now be provided to pregnant women, vaccination of all other eligible adult cohorts for the 2024/25 campaign **cannot** commence until **Thursday 3 October 2024**.

GOV.UK guidance [When should you get your flu vaccine](#).

Medicines

General:

[Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\) publishes consultation response on changes to Part 1X of the Drug Tariff.](#)

[Drug Tariff Watch - October 2024.](#)

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

[October 2024 Category M prices announced.](#)

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

[Rolled Over Price Concessions for October 2024.](#)

MHRA:

[Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Risperidone 1mg, 2mg, 3mg tablets \(Sandoz Ltd\).](#)

[Drug Safety Update: September 2024.](#)

[Class 2 Medicines Recall: Oxbryta \(voxelotor\) 500mg Tablets \(Pfizer Limited\).](#)

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP):

[SSP073 – Chemydur 60XL tablets extended.](#)

[Expiry of SSP072 Cefalexin 500mg tablets.](#)

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