Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 25 November 2024

National Updates

NHS England seek your views on central procurement of flu vacs.

The NHS Vaccination Strategy, published in December last year, set out an intention for NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to explore the potential benefits of adopting centralisation of adult flu vaccine procurement and supply.

Flu vac: first line vaccine for the 65 yrs and over still available.

NHS England, has published a reminder, via their Primary Care Bulletin, highlighting that the High-dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV-HD), a first line vaccine for the 65 years and over cohort, as advised in the amendment to the annual flu letter, is available to order from Sanofi.

Guidance on handling 'FS' endorsed prescriptions for free supply of sexual health treatments

As 'FS' endorsed prescription items become more common, Community Pharmacy England has released updated guidance on how pharmacies should handle these prescriptions.

Pharmacy owners: please ask your patients to give feedback on Pharmacy First.

Community Pharmacy England and Healthwatch England have launched an online Pharmacy First patient survey that pharmacy owners can direct patients to after receiving the service.

Local News

Less than 1 week left: Training and Engagement needs of Community Pharmacies in BLMK-N LPC.

As part of our ongoing commitment to represent and support community pharmacies within BLMK-N, we are conducting a **survey** to understand your training and engagement needs. Your insights are invaluable in helping us understand what specific support you require.

Please can Pharmacists take a moment to complete this survey and provide their feedback, which will directly influence the training and engagement opportunities, ensuring pharmacies are equipped to deliver services. The survey will close on **30 November 2024**.

Temporary Pharmacy Closures.

In light of the recent storms, there may be occasions when a contractor is unable to open its premises for a reason that is beyond its control.
In these circumstances, the contractors need to follow appropriate procedures to mitigate the effects of the closure on patients, the public, the NHS, and other community pharmacy contractors, they should avoid breaching their terms of service.

Where there is a temporary closure outside of the contractor's control, they are required to notify the NHS England Area Team via the unplanned temporary suspension of services notification form (currently Annex 18) and e-mail to the pharmacy contract team of your integrated care board (ICB).
BLMK: hweicbhv.pharmacy@nhs.net
Northants: England.eastmidspharmacy@nhs.net
A full list of procedures to support the pharmacy can be found on the CPE website.

Update NHS Profile Manager.

Ahead of the upcoming festive season bank holidays, we would like to remind pharmacy owners of the need to update NHS Profile Manager to ensure that their pharmacy's NHS website and Directory of Service (DoS) profile information is up to date.
The NHS Terms of Service require pharmacy owners to check that their opening hours, contact information, facilities and services information are up to date for each profile, **each financial quarter**. You should mark each module as verified even if is there is no change required to the information.
How to register and update/verify your profile
Register for the NHS Profile Manager, if you haven't already with your personal NHSmail address. You will need NHSmail to use NHS Profile Manager. If you have already registered, then proceed to update/verify your NHS Profile Manager pharmacy profile.
For further information and support:
Our NHS Profile Manager webpage: including information and FAQs
NHS Profile Manager team: tutorial videos on YouTube
Please note, we will update you with Bank Holiday information as soon as it becomes available to us.

FAO Bedford/Central Bedfordshire/Milton Keynes - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) Community Pharmacy Survey extended.

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 following surveys deadlines have been extended to **1 December 2024**; we strongly encourage you to complete the following survey for your locality:

- Bedford Borough Council
- Central Bedfordshire
- Milton Keynes City Council

Training & Events

NHSBSA Online Webinars for Pharmacy Teams.

The NHSBSA are hosting webinars to provide an insight into how they reimburse prescriptions. These sessions will take place online and last approximately 1 hour. There are 8 sessions in total, the next one will be on **Thursday 12 December at 10:00am** (a full list of the dates is on the CPE website). To sign up and attend one of the sessions, email NHSBSA at **open-days@nhsbsa.nhs.uk** with the date and time of the session you wish to attend.

Dry Eye United CPD Day.

We are really excited to announce a unique cross profession event for Optometrists, GPs and Pharmacists to work together

Recent research found that if patients have a problem with their eye, then they are more likely to see a pharmacist than an Optometrist. This event will show you the correct management options and will have real life patients from local hospital.

GOC accredited CPD certificates will be issued for each lecture

Event: 9 February 2025, 10-16:30pm, Kettering Park Hotel, NN15 6XT, includes refreshments and 3 course hot buffet lunch.

Places are limited and allocated on first response basis, **book here**.

FAO Milton Keynes - **Bletchley Get Together.**

A series of drop-in sessions to provide accessible help on health and wellbeing topics has been launched in Bletchley.

The Bletchley Get Togethers support groups will run twice each month, initially at Bletchley Library and West Bletchley community centre.

Bletchley Pathfinder, a multi-agency partnership led by the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board and Milton Keynes City Council, has designed the drop-ins to alleviate pressure on health services and to reduce inequalities by focusing on prevention and addressing a range of health and care needs.

Reminders

Reminder: complete the 2024 mandatory workforce survey.

Pharmacy owners are reminded of the requirement to complete the 2024 workforce survey, which is a **mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners**.

Read more about the survey and how to complete it

The survey will **close at midnight on 11 December 2024**.

Medicines

General:

November 2024 Price Concessions 2nd Update.

Folic acid supplementation – advice to health professionals.

MHRA:

Class 3 Medicines Recall: Baclofen 10mg/5ml Oral Solution (Syri Limited, T/A SyriMed)

Medicine Supply Notification:

Levobunolol (Betagan®) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free.

Imiquimod (Aldara® 5% and Bascellex® 50mg/g) cream 250mg sachets.