

National Updates

[Community Pharmacy England response to the DHSC announcement on General Practice investment and changes for 2025/26.](#)

Janet Morrison, CPE Chief Executive, responds to a Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announcement about investment into, and changes for, General Practice for the financial year 2025/26.

[Health Secretary pledges to take 'enormous' pharmacy pressures into account.](#)

The Health Secretary Wes Streeting MP appeared before the Health and Social Care Select Committee in Parliament on 18 December, to answer questions related to his brief.

[MPs call for increased funding for community pharmacies.](#)

Twenty MPs from all three major parties took part in a parliamentary debate calling for government investment and support for community pharmacies.

[Pharmacy closures and patient safety risks on horizon.](#)

Many community pharmacies will not survive this winter season without urgent financial support, pharmacy leaders have warned.

Local News

3rd Party Ordering.

Patients and healthcare professionals have told us that they are concerned about the number of medicines being wasted. When patients order their own prescriptions, this is safer for patients, reduces waste and empowers patients to take control of their own medicine ordering. Over-ordering medicines costs the NHS hundreds of millions of pounds every year and this money should be used to provide vital health services.

Our NHS needs everyone to work together to make sure only medicines that are needed are requested. In addition, the current system can lead to errors and is also very time consuming for pharmacies and the practice. In very exceptional circumstances, the patient may request that the pharmacy order their prescription on their behalf. This is not the default position and patients should be encouraged to order their own medication ideally via the NHS app or online. This is especially important when dispensing into compliance aids.

Christmas Opening Times 2024.

Please see the links below to the BLMK–N LPC website, with details of pharmacies that have been commissioned by NHS England to open over the Christmas period:

- [BLMK](#)
- [Northants](#)

For Luton & Bedfordshire only – [HUC re NHS 111 and Pharmacy First](#).

If you receive a patient referral from 111 and the patient needs to be referred back to them, where appropriate, pharmacists should utilise the healthcare professional line rather than advising patients to call 111 themselves, this will ensure the patient is dealt with as efficiently as possible. This line is accessed by calling 111 and selecting option 3, whereby they will arrange for a healthcare professional to callback.

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 **Tuesday 14 January 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.

Reminders

[Verifying your NHS Profile Manager profile.](#)

Ahead of the 31 December 2024 deadline* we would like to remind pharmacy owners of the need to update [NHS Profile Manager](#) each quarter 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 no change is required to the information.

*Note: The NHS Contract quarters are 1 April to 30 June; 1 July to 30 September; 1 October to 31 December; and 1 January to 31 March.

Medicines

General:

[December 2024 Price Concessions 3rd Update.](#)

[January 2025 Category M prices announced.](#)

MHRA:

[Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Vyvgart 1000 mg solution for injection \(Argenx BV\).](#)

Medicine Supply Notifications:

[Isosorbide mononitrate 10mg, 20mg and 40mg tablets \(immediate release\).](#)

[Estradiol \(Estradot®\) 50micrograms/24 hours, 75micrograms/24 hours, and](#)

[100micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches.](#)

National Patient Safety Alert:

[Shortage of Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy \(PERT\) – Additional actions.](#)

Serious Shortage Protocol:

[Three new SSPs issued for Estradot® patches.](#)

From all of the team at BLMK-N LPC, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2025.

The next newsletter will be on w/c 6 January 2025.

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