Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 9 December 2024

National Updates

2024 mandatory workforce survey closes on Wednesday.

Pharmacy owners have until midnight on Wednesday **(11th December 2024)** to complete the 2024 workforce survey, which **is a mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners.**

DHSC permits use of antiviral medicines against influenza.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has via its Central Alerting System (CAS) published a letter on 3 December 2024 advising that due to increasing flu levels in the community, Prescribers working in primary care may now prescribe, and community pharmacists may now supply antiviral medicines (oseltamivir and zanamivir) for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza at NHS expense.

NHS Smartcard action required: checking contact info, self-unlock and expiry.

NHS England and Community Pharmacy England recommend that pharmacy team members with NHS Smartcards take action to support ongoing use of their smartcards.

EPS rolls out for Detained Estate prescribers.

NHS England has announced that from December 2024, the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) will be extended to Detained Estate healthcare 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 the use of paper FP10 forms.

Community Pharmacy England submits proposals for NHS 10-Year Plan.

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) has made a submission to the Government's development of a 10-year Health Plan for the NHS, highlighting the benefits of increased commissioning of pharmacy services in tandem with addressing the sector's current funding gap.

Inject funding now to prevent collapse, CPE tells Ministers.

CPE has urged Ministers to provide immediate funding relief to community pharmacies and warning that without this, pharmacy closures will continue, with the potential for a house of cards collapse of the sector.

MPs call for increased support for pharmacies, following autumn budget.

In a debate in Parliament, MPs raised their concerns about the impact of the 2024 Budget on community pharmacies.

CPCF Negotiations Update: A message from CPE CEO.
CPE CEO Janet Morrison has given a video update on the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) negotiations, addressing the prolonged pause that means the sector is still without an agreement for 2024/25.

Local News

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

Training & Events

Events coming soon from BLMK-N LPC.
Thank you to everyone who completed the "Training & Engagement" Survey. We are now busy analysing all of the survey results and will be pulling together training events for 2025.
Please watch out for future events.

FAO BLMK: Opportunity to Participate in the FSRH Contraception Provision Course Pilot.
Please see an opportunity for BLMK community pharmacists to participate in a pilot of the *FSRH Contraception Provision Course for Pharmacy Professionals*, developed by the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH).
The course aims to equip pharmacy professionals with the knowledge and skills to **safely initiate and re-issue oral contraception**.
Participation in the pilot is free of charge and involves:

- **Module 1:** Self-directed learning (about 5.5 hours); resources available in January
- **Module 2 & 3:** Online sessions led by experienced facilitators (each about 2.5 hours), scheduled for the evenings of **27 February** and **11 March**.

Topics include contraceptive methods, contraindications, drug interactions, and consultation skills.
Spaces for this free pilot are limited, and participants are expected to fully engage in all three modules and provide feedback to support the course's development.
We encourage you to seize this valuable professional development opportunity and upskill to confidently provide the Contraception Service.
To apply, please contact FSRH at pld@fsrh.org.

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.

Reminders

Please ask your patients to give feedback on Pharmacy First.
Last month Community Pharmacy England and Healthwatch England launched an online Pharmacy First patient survey that pharmacy owners can direct patients to after receiving the service.
The aim of this collaboration is to collect patient feedback on the service to help inform service improvements and to help to quantify the value of the service to the public.

Medicines

General:
Rolled over price concessions for December 2024.

MHRA:
Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Oxybutynin hydrochloride 2.5 mg/5 ml Oral Solution (Brillpharma Limited).
Class 2 Medicines Recall: WockAIR 160 microgram/4.5 microgram, inhalation powder (Wockhardt UK Limited).

Serious Shortage Protocol:
Two SSPs issued for Cefalexin oral suspension sugar free.