Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 20 January 2025

National Updates

Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2025: It's time to share your views.

Community Pharmacy England has launched its fourth annual Pressures Survey, and all pharmacy owners and staff are asked to share their views.

The survey provides crucial evidence as part of ongoing work to monitor and quantify the intolerable challenges facing the sector. The survey is split into two parts for **pharmacy business owners/head office representatives** and another for **pharmacy teams**. Results will be used to raise awareness in the national media and Parliament, and to once again demonstrate the impact of the ongoing crisis in community pharmacy to Government and the NHS.
Both surveys are short and should take around 10-15 minutes to complete. They will remain open until **23.59 on 28 February 2025.**

Data Security & Protection Toolkit 2025: Community Pharmacy England guidance available.

Community Pharmacy England has published new guidance to help community pharmacy owners complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2025. The Toolkit is used to make a pharmacy's information governance (IG) declaration and must be completed **by 30 June 2025.**

Planned MYS downtime due to essential maintenance.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has notified Community Pharmacy England that the **Manage Your Service (MYS) Pharmacy portal** will be unavailable due to essential maintenance between 7:00am and 6:00pm on the following days:

- Saturday 8 Feb 2025
- Saturday 15 Feb 2025

Pharmacy First myth busting series #8. and **Pharmacy First myth busting series (#9).**

This is the eighth and ninth of a series of articles to tackle some of the misconceptions around Pharmacy First.

Local News

FAO Luton – Luton Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment PNA 2025 Contractors Survey.

Luton Council is currently undertaking a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). This is a statutory requirement for local authorities. The PNA provides an assessment of the current

provision of pharmaceutical services in Luton and considers whether this meets the needs of the population, identifying any potential gaps in service delivery and any ways by which services could be improved in line with Luton Health and Wellbeing Board's local health priorities. The PNA will also be used by NHS England to consider applications to open new pharmacies, or to commission additional services from pharmacies.

As part of this process, they are collecting information about services provided by all pharmacies in Luton. Please complete the following survey: https://survey.ntropydata.co.uk/surveys/PNApharmacy. It is really important that they collect this information from as many local pharmacies as possible to help shape the future direction of pharmacy services in Luton. They understand this is a very busy time for you, so have kept the survey short. Can you please complete the questionnaire by **21 February 2025.**

Training & Events

CPPE Updates.

Key highlights included for the CPPE update this month include:

- Details of topics for online learning workshops through to March.
- New Pharmacy First online learning - delivering a quality service.
- CPPE podcast and topics available – Pharmacy Conversations.
- Mental health e course.

Also attached is their **Leading for change programme** with details for 2025. Applications are open from **3 February 2025** for two cohorts starting in April. This is a useful learning programme for those wishing to develop their leadership skills.

Free Community Event in Bletchley – New Year, New You!

Find out about employment, volunteering, training opportunities and wellbeing support.
Tuesday 28 January 12:00pm – 2:30pm at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Bletchley, MK2 2HQ.

FAO Luton – ResoLUTiONs Pharmacy Training Event.

Face to Face training for pharmacies, currently offering the service, in and around Luton from Resolutions, the Alcohol and Drug Service.
12 February 2025 7pm – 9:30pm, The Hub, 91 Castle Street, Luton.
Email Jessica.chance@cgl.org.uk to confirm attendance.

Register for CPE Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2025 Workshop.

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar on **Thursday 13 February at 7.30pm** to help community pharmacy owners to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2025.
Register for Workshop

Registration for the National Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme via Oriel.
Participation in the 2025 Foundation Trainee Pharmacist National Recruitment Scheme to recruit into your Foundation Training programme(s) for the 2026-27 training year.
The National Recruitment Scheme is **the only route to employing a foundation trainee pharmacist** for the 2026-27 foundation training year; you are unable to recruit trainees directly.

The deadline to submit your form(s) is **11.59pm on 1 March 2025**. Please note late submissions will not be accepted.

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 28 January at 2:00pm** (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

Reminder: SPS Pharmacy First podcast series.
Earlier this year, Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) launched a podcast series to discuss some of the issues surrounding the Pharmacy First service and to debunk certain clinical myths around the Clinical pathway strand of the service.

Medicines

General:
January 2025 Price Concessions 3rd Update.

Medicine Supply Notifications:
Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules.

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP):
Two SSPs for Estradot® patches extended.
Expiry of SSP075 Monomil® XL 60mg tablets.

MHRA:
Class 2 Medicines Recall: Tesco Health Dry Cough Relief 200ml, Asda Strong Dry Tickly Cough 200ml, Almus Dry Cough Relief & Bells Dual Action Dry Cough.

Recall:

We have been made aware of a series of children admitted to hospital in Greater Manchester with significantly raised vitamin D and calcium levels due to potential overdosing of colecalciferol.

Each patient had been prescribed the food supplement pictured below in primary care:

The product in question is a food supplement, not a licensed medicine, so it does not fall under standard MHRA product recall processes.

Actions Taken So Far:

1. The manufacturer is aware of the suspected issue and has quarantined the affected product, preventing further distribution.
2. The MHRA and Food Standards Agency have been notified.
3. The FSA has issued a food recall. **TriOn Pharma recalls Aactive D3 2000iu/ml supplements because of excess levels of Vitamin D3 | Food Standards Agency**
4. Local primary care colleagues are reviewing prescribing activity and following up with individual surgeries and pharmacies.
5. The manufacturer is testing affected product samples from patients, though the colecalciferol assay is not widely available and results may take time.

Please treat this as a precautionary alert for awareness and cascade within your teams, as appropriate.

The potential for **significant deviation from the labelled concentration** when using Vitamin D products marketed as food supplements has previously been described. It is recommended that licensed medicinal products are used for the administration of treatment doses of Vitamin D. The use of food supplements to administer maintenance or prophylactic doses is generally lower risk due to a much wider margin of error.