Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 27 January 2025

National Updates

Claim period extended for four Advanced services.

A new provision has been agreed from February 2025 which provides pharmacy owners with a longer time period to claim for provision of certain services if IT issues outside of a pharmacy owner's control have prevented them from making a claim within the required time period.

Pharmacy First: Claims may be investigated if provision is outside of service requirements.

New wording will be added to Part VIC of the February 2025 Drug Tariff to advise that where claims are submitted for Pharmacy First and the data provided indicates the service was not provided in accordance with the appropriate Patient Group Direction (PGD) or service specification, the payments may be withheld by the NHS Business Services Authority while the claims are investigated.

Community Pharmacy England hosts LPCs for negotiation training

CPE has hosted representatives of 35 Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) for in-person negotiation training with the independent consultancy, PA Consulting.

Government opens discussions with Community Pharmacy England over 25/26 funding contract.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has entered into consultation with Community Pharmacy England (CPE) regarding the 2024/25 and 2025/26 funding contractual framework.

Pharmacy First myth busting series #10.

This is the tenth 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). The PNA will 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.**

FAO BLMK – The University of Bedfordshire are Calling Pharmacies to participate in an Automated Medication Device RCT.

The University of Bedfordshire are looking for **3 more pharmacies** to participate in a 6-month trial of an innovative automated dispensing device aimed at improving adherence for patients with long term conditions.

Key benefits include:

- **Up to £120 per patient allocated the device**.
- **Full training and support provided**.
- **Showcase your pharmacies commitment to innovation**.

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to a study that could transform medication management, all while showcasing your pharmacy's commitment to advancing patient care.
To learn more or to sign up, please contact Dr Jodi Emma Wainwright at jodiemma.wainwright@beds.ac.uk or call 07566 729241.

Training & Events

LGBT History Month.

BLMK ICB will be celebrating LGBT History Month during February.
They have put together a strong programme consisting of four thought-provoking, inspiring and informative discussions to celebrate the contribution of LGBT people to the NHS and the wider community.

The first talk on **Friday 7 February** will be of particular interest to providers of health and care services as it looks at LGBT patients' experiences, based on the survey conducted by the LGBT Foundation. Everyone is welcome at all sessions; you don't need to identify as LGBT+ in order to attend. All of the sessions will be held at lunchtimes and will take place via Teams, allowing both front-line and back-office staff to join in remotely.
You will need to scan the QR code or **click on the link** in order to see the events and register. The Teams invitation will be sent a day or two before each event.
Should you need any more information, please email **blmkicb.communications@nhs.net**.

Dry Eye United CPD Day.
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**.

Online Training Event - Advancing Asthma Care – Enhancing Patient Outcomes with MART.
In this webinar, Dr Sanjeev Rana, will discuss the MART (Maintenance and Reliever Therapy) strategy for asthma, explaining how it simplifies management and enhances control for patients.
Tuesday 11 February 2025 – 13:00 – 14:00
Thursday 13 February 2025 – 19:00 – 20:00
To register, please confirm which dates you would like to attend and contact Sofia Karim **UK-Marketingmailbox@orionpharma.com**.

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 11 February at 10:00** (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.

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.

Reminders

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**.
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.**

Medicines

General:
Inclisiran (Leqvio®) orders for NHS prescriptions – check your invoices.
Retrospective reimbursement price adjustments for Gaviscon Infant oral powder sachets dual dose sachets.

Medicine Supply Notifications:
Memantine (Valios®) 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free.

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- Updated.
Drug Safety Update: January 2025.