

For Action

Local News:

- CPCF arrangements announced – Sign up to CPE pharmacy owner webinars **2 & 7 April 2025 7:30 – 9pm.**
- West Northamptonshire PNA draft – **1 May 2025.**

Training & Events:

- Register for Hypertension conference – **2/4/25 6:30 – 9:00pm.**
- Bletchley Events – **2 & 14 April 2025.**

Reminders:

- Flu Vac service ends – **31 March 2025.**
 - Update your NHS Profile Manager– **31 March 2025.**
 - HLP Engagement Exercise.
 - Broadcast Group mobile number required from contractors.
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Local News

CPCF arrangements for 2024/25 and 2025/26 announced.

Funding and other arrangements for community pharmacies for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been finalised. Community Pharmacy England (CPE), DHSC and NHS England will write jointly to pharmacy owners setting out information on the CPCF for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

CPE has produced the following documents:

[Briefing 010/25: Funding Settlement for 2024/25 and 2025/26.](#)

[Infographic: CPCF Settlement 2024/25 and 2025/26.](#)

The priority for pharmacy owners must be to understand the implications of the new funding settlement for their businesses, and to plan for the year ahead. Please sign up to one of CPE pharmacy owner webinars [Sign up for an event](#), available on **2 & 7 April 2025 7:30 – 9:00pm.**

Local Service Contracts – A message from our Chair.

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of CP BLMK & Northants to request your cooperation in ensuring that all pharmacy contractors benefit from fair and sustainable funding for locally commissioned services.

Community pharmacies play a vital role in delivering essential healthcare services to patients and local communities. We are the most accessible healthcare providers, offering expert advice, medication support, and a range of commissioned services that help to reduce pressure on GPs and hospitals. Our contribution to public health and patient care is invaluable, and it is crucial that this is recognized with fair and appropriate funding.

The LPC is currently reviewing all local service contracts and actively engaging with commissioners to negotiate improved financial terms. Our goal is to secure better funding arrangements that reflect the true value of the services pharmacies provide and to ensure consistency and fairness across the sector.

The proposed remuneration rates have remained unchanged for, in some cases five years. This stagnation in compensation fails to account for inflation, rising costs, and the value of the essential services you provide. The committee firmly believes that accepting contracts under these outdated terms will significantly weaken our position in ongoing negotiations with the commissioner.

We cannot allow our services to be taken for granted or undervalued. Without fair funding, pharmacies will struggle to continue delivering the high-quality care that patients and communities rely upon. To support this effort, we kindly ask that you do not sign any local service contracts unless they have been negotiated and ratified by the LPC. We understand that contract opportunities are important, but signing under these conditions will only reinforce the commissioner's stance and make it even more difficult to secure a fair rate for all contractors in the future. We urge you to hold firm and support our collective efforts to achieve better terms. By standing together, we strengthen our position and improve our chances of achieving meaningful improvements for all contractors.

If you receive any contract offers from commissioners or have any concerns about existing agreements, please share them with the LPC as soon as possible. Your input is invaluable in shaping our negotiations and ensuring we achieve the best possible outcome for community pharmacy.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact us at office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk if you require any further clarification.

FAO Milton Keynes – CAMHS EPS.

From **18 March 2025**, CAMHS will be going live with EPS, however a small cohort of patients may still choose to carry on receiving paper FP10s.

Please note this will start as a pilot project and continue if there are no major issues. CAMHS may contact you for any issues/clarifications.

For any queries/concerns please contact 01908 724544.

FAO West Northamptonshire – PNA Draft.

The West Northamptonshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment draft has been approved and is out for consultation. Contractors are invited to read the draft and leave a comment, which is in the link below, the consultation closes on **1 May 2025**.

[Have your say on the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – West Northamptonshire Council – Citizen Space.](#)

FAO Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton – Hertfordshire PNA.

As a contractor neighbouring Hertfordshire in Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton, we would be grateful if you would support the Hertfordshire HWB by reading the PNA and completing the survey which is hosted here **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/pna**. The consultation closes **11 May 2025**.

Training & Events

FAO BLMK – Addressing Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease in BLMK.

A Fantastic conference which will bring together community pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, and general practice colleagues.

Wednesday 2 April 2025, 6:30 – 9pm, Mitchell Hall, College Road, Cranfield, Beds, MK43 0AL.

[Register attendance here.](#)

Let's Get Together, Bletchley.

BLMK Integrated Care Board, Milton Keynes City Council and other partners have lined up a range of community events over the spring and summer as part of their Bletchley Pathfinder programme where they are working together to help local people stay healthy.

Ageing Well Event:

Wednesday 2 April 2–4pm, West Bletchley Community Centre, 3 Porchester Close MK3 6BH.

Child Development Event:

Monday 14 April 10am – 12pm, Bletchley Library MK2 2RA.

Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2025 workshop now on-demand.

Pharmacy owners can now watch a recording of Community Pharmacy England's recent online workshop to help with the completion of the **[Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2025](#)**.

Pharmacy owners required to finalise their pharmacy's Data Security and Protection Toolkit submission by **30 June 2025**.

Reminders

Reminder: Flu Vac Service 2024/25 ends.

Pharmacy owners are reminded that the NHS Flu Vaccination Service **ends** on **31 March 2025**. Pharmacy teams should not administer any further vaccinations under this service after this date and are reminded to ensure they have submitted their claims for payment for the service. Pharmacy owners are also advised to remove any promotional material related to the service.

Reminder: Update your NHS Profile Manager quarterly.

Ahead of the 31 March 2025 deadline, pharmacy owners are reminded to regularly update their NHS Profile Manager each quarter, ensuring their NHS website and Directory of Services (DoS) profile information remains current.

HLP Community Engagement Exercise.

Pharmacy owners must undertake a community engagement exercise **at least once per financial year** for the promotion of healthy living, which involves:

- actively working in collaboration with other organisations to deliver pharmacy outreach and any locally commissioned services; and
- taking prevention and health promotion services beyond the pharmacy premises. Pharmacy outreach may be face to face and take services to people where they live or spend time or may be virtual events.

Tax credits are ending – downloadable poster for pharmacies to display.

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that, **from 6 April 2025**, patients who hold a tax credit exemption certificate will no longer receive automatic entitlement to free NHS prescriptions under the 'Tax Credit exemption certificate' category.

£9.90 NHS prescription charge unchanged for April 2025.

The Government has yet to conclude consideration of any increases to prescription charges and prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs) for 2025/26. **The current charges will therefore roll over into April 2025.**

Appliances to be deleted from Part IX of the April Drug Tariff.

CPE would like to remind pharmacy teams of the Appliances to be deleted from Part IX of the April Drug Tariff.

BLMK-N LPC WhatsApp Broadcast Group.

We have recently launched a **WhatsApp Broadcast Group** (to exist alongside your existing groups) to share urgent local updates between newsletters. Unlike regular WhatsApp groups, this will be a **one-way communication channel**, where only the LPC can send messages.

📌 To join the WhatsApp Broadcast Group:

Email your **mobile number, pharmacy name, and role** to office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk and ensure your privacy settings allow us to add you.

Useful Links:

<https://cpe.org.uk>

[Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\)](#)

[Alerts recalls and safety information: medicines and medical devices.](#)

[Drug Safety Updates.](#)

Email: office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk