

For Action

Local News:

- FAO Northamptonshire – **Medicines Management online survey.**
- FAO BLMK – **An update re FreeStyle Libre 2.**
- FAO West Northamptonshire – PNA Draft comments by **1 May 2025.**
- FAO North Northamptonshire – PNA Draft comments by **6 May 2025.**

Training & Events:

- Register for Pharmacy Contraception Service webinar – **20 May 2025 – 8:00 – 9:30pm.**

Reminders:

- PQS Aspiration Window Opens – **1 May 2025 – 9am**
- May Bank Holiday Arrangements – **Update your NHS Profile Manager.**
- Broadcast Group – **mobile number required from contractors.**

Local News

FAO Northamptonshire – Medicines Management online engagement event.

Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Medicines Management Team would like to introduce a regular online engagement event with Community Pharmacies within Northamptonshire. The aim is to optimise the good relationship that already exists, provide training, system updates and create a space and opportunity for Pharmacy teams to get together to discuss current topics. The team would like to make these sessions as accessible as possible to everyone and welcome suggestions on the most convenient days, times and topics to be covered; they've created a very short series of [questions](#) to ask for preferences, please submit responses via the link above by 5/5/25. The events will be open to any members of the Community Pharmacy Team.

FAO BLMK – An update from the Medicines Optimisation Team.

You may be aware that **FreeStyle Libre 2** sensors are being discontinued by August 2025. These have been replaced with **FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus** sensors.

The sensor lasts for 15 days (compared to the current 14 days) so patients will need **2 sensors per prescription duration of 30 days.**

The **FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus** sensor works conveniently with the existing FreeStyle LibreLink app and the FreeStyle Libre 2 reader; no app updates or change of reader are required.

We have advised our GP practices that review, and switching of any existing patients (circa 840 people) should be completed by end of July 2025.

Any prescriptions for **FreeStyle Libre 2** sensors should be referred to the GP Practice for changing.

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 North Northamptonshire – PNA Draft.

On behalf of North Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board, the Northamptonshire PNA Steering Group have finalised a draft PNA which records the assessment of the need for pharmaceutical services within North Northamptonshire. Contractors are invited to read the draft and leave a comment, which is in the link below, the consultation closes on **6 May 2025**.

[https://northnouthants.citizenspace.com/public-health/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-hys.](https://northnouthants.citizenspace.com/public-health/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-hys)

Funding for research in Community Pharmacies.

Pharmacies can apply for grants of up to £300,000 to support the purchase of equipment, modular buildings such as portacabins, or for refurbishment projects for research delivery.

Training & Events

Webinar on Pharmacy Contraception Service: A focus on Initiation and key changes to the service.

BLMK–N LPC and Hertfordshire LPC are running a joint webinar on the Pharmacy Contraception Service on **Tuesday 20 May 8:00 – 9:30pm** – [Registration Link.](#)

Dr Rebecca Asquith will be sharing practical steps to help build confidence with initial consultations and supply, with local contractors sharing their best practices.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Reminders

PQS Aspiration Payment window opens 1 May 2025 from 9am.

Pharmacy owners can claim for an Aspiration payment on the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Manage Your Service (MYS) portal between **9am on 1 May 2025** and **11.59pm on 16 May 2025**.

There is no requirement to have claimed for a previous PQS to claim an Aspiration payment for PQS 2025/26. Once pharmacy owners have reviewed the requirements of the PQS 2025/26, they will need to decide which domains they intend to meet by **31 March 2026**, when they make their Aspiration declaration.

We have made documents with broken down timelines and actions to start now, available on our [BLMK-N-LPC website](#).

Pharmacy First – Latest Update.

On 31 March 2025, the details of the [contractual settlement for 2025/26 were announced](#), which included changes to the Pharmacy First service.

Fees:

From 1 April 2025, the consultation fee for Minor illness and Clinical Pathway consultations increased to £17 (from £15). The fee for Urgent supply consultations remains at £15.

Monthly payment:

From 1 June 2025, a banded approach will be added to the monthly payment:

- £500 for those providing 20–29 Clinical pathways consultations within a month; and
- £1000 for those pharmacies that provide 30 or more Clinical pathways consultations within a month.

To accommodate that change to the monthly payment within the NHSBSA's systems, for Pharmacy First consultations provided from 1 June 2025, pharmacy owners will need to claim for them within one month from the end of the month in which they were provided.

NMS: Making your end of month claim.

Ahead of making a claim for the New Medicine Service (NMS) consultations carried out in April 2025, pharmacy owners are reminded of the changes to NMS that were announced as part of the contractual settlement for 2025/26 and that came into effect from 1 April 2025.

Uplift to advanced payments for April and May 2025.

In discussions with DHSC, Community Pharmacy England has agreed a mechanism to allow pharmacy owners to receive the 19p Single Activity Fee (SAF) increase sooner for dispensing months of April 2025 and May 2025. The advanced payments for these dispensing months will be adjusted to incorporate the uplift to the SAF. No adjustment to advance payments will be required from June 2025 dispensing month onwards.

Contract changes: Margin Explainer.

Community Pharmacy England have released further information and details about margin delivery, to help explain the arrangements in a clearer way.

Pharmacy owner views sought on CPCF arrangements for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

CPE wants to hear views from pharmacy owners on the new CPCF funding settlement, ahead of their next full Committee meeting taking place at the end of this month. The **short ten-minute poll** is open until **11:59pm on 30 April 2025**.

May Bank Holiday – Pharmacy Opening Arrangements.

The first May Bank Holiday is on **5 May** and pharmacies are reminded to display opening hours for patients and ensure their **NHS Profile Manager** has been updated with their opening hours.

£9.90 NHS prescription and PPC charges unchanged for May 2025.

The Government is yet to conclude consideration of any increases to prescription charges and NHS prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs) for 2025/26. **Therefore, the current charges will roll over into May 2025.**

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**