Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 12 May 2025

For Action

Local News:

- An update re FreeStyle Libre 2.
- FAO West Northamptonshire – **Expression of interest to offer EHC – Deadline 30 May 2025.**
- Independent Pharmacy Awards Nominations – **Deadline 15 July 2025**.

Training & Events:

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

Reminders:

- PQS Aspiration Window closes – **16 May 2025 – 11:59pm.**
- Pharmacy First bundling – **1 June 2025**.
- May Bank Holiday – **26 May 2025** - **Update your NHS Profile Manager**.
- Data Security and Protection Toolkit submission - **30 June 2025**.
- Broadcast Group - **mobile number required from contractors**.

Local News

Update for all on Freestyle Libre 2

FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors will be discontinued in the UK in August 2025 and will be replaced by Freestyle Libre 2 Plus sensors. GPs were informed that all patients on Freestyle Libre 2 will need their prescription changed to Freestyle Libre 2 plus. There is no difference in price per year but each Freestyle Libre 2 Plus sensor has a 15-day wear time so the prescription duration will need to change from 28 days to 30 days.

Additional for Northamptonshire - Alongside the prescription changes happening during routine diabetic reviews for all patients currently using Freestyle Libre 2 the Northants ICB MO team will be transferring patients over to FSL2+ in the next couple of months to ensure the switch is done in a controlled manner and not rushed around the end of August 2025 .This communication is to let you know about the same so that you can run down the stock of FSL2 and not reorder extra stock of FSL2 due to the above changes.

FAO West Northamptonshire – Expression of Interest to provide EHC.
The new opportunity to contract with West Northamptonshire Council to provide Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is currently live on the government Find a Tender website: **Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) - Find a Tender**. West Northamptonshire Council value the opportunity to work with community pharmacies and kindly ask that any pharmacy interested in this opportunity follows the link for more information and details of how to express interested before **30 May 2025**. Interested providers must complete the Request for Information document available from **procurement@westnorthants.gov.uk**.

This opportunity is not currently affected by the **government announcement** that EHC will be included in the NHS-commissioned Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) from October 2025 (subject to IT updates) but it is likely that local EHC services will be decommissioned. WNC will work with pharmacies at this time to ensure a smooth transition. Pharmacies that would like to start providing EHC before the changes to the PCS contact can benefit from the opportunity to contract with WNC at this time.

Independent Pharmacy Awards Nominations are open.
The Independent Pharmacy Awards 2025 is officially open for entries! This is an opportunity for independent community pharmacists and their teams to tell the nation about their successes. The deadline for entries is **15 July 2025**.

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.

Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Prescription switching.
As part of the **Funding & Reimbursement Shorts** series, Community Pharmacy England's in-house Drug Tariff and funding experts have created a new video on prescription switching.

Reminders

PQS Aspiration Payment window closes 16 May 2025 at 11:59pm.
Pharmacy owners have until **11.59pm on Friday 16th May 2025** to claim an Aspiration payment for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2025/26.
We have made documents with broken down timelines and actions to start now, available on our **BLMK-N-LPC website**.

May Bank Holiday - Pharmacy Opening Arrangements.
The first May Bank Holiday is on **26 May** and pharmacies are reminded to display opening hours for patients and ensure their **NHS Profile Manager** has been updated with their opening hours.

Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways caps for May 2025.
Pharmacy owners should be aware that the Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways band assignments and monthly caps for **May 2025** are published on the **NHSBSA website**.
The list published by NHSBSA indicates the band assignment and monthly cap for each pharmacy by ODS code.

Pharmacy First bundling requirement from 1 June.
Ahead of **1 June 2025**, pharmacy owners are reminded of the changes to the bundling requirements for Pharmacy First which will impact on whether they are entitled to a monthly fixed payment for the service. Pharmacy owners must be registered and able to deliver the Hypertension Case Finding Service, the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) **and** the Pharmacy First service, in addition to delivering the minimum number of clinical pathway consultations.

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.**

BLMK-N LPC WhatsApp Broadcast Group - Urgent
As there is currently a lot of important information and timelines coming through, going forward we will only be posting this on to the Broadcast Group and the biweekly newsletter, if you haven't already signed up, please send us your details so you don't miss out on urgent reminders.
📢 **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.