

For Action

Local News:

- FAO BLMK – Private Prescription Alert.
- FAO West Northamptonshire – **Expression of interest to offer EHC – Deadline 30 May 2025.**

Training & Events:

- Pharmacy Contraception Service webinar – **now added to BLMK-N LPC website.**
- Greener Pharmacy webinar – **29 May 7pm-8pm.**
- Funding for Pharmacy Technician apprenticeship programme – **Deadline 15 June 2025.**
- Independent Pharmacy Awards Nominations – **Deadline 15 July 2025.**

Reminders:

- Pharmacy First bundling – **From 1 June 2025.**
- Changes to LFD Service – **Deadline by 16 June 2025.**
- Data Security and Protection Toolkit submission – **Deadline by 30 June 2025.**
- Broadcast Group – **mobile number required from contractors.**

Local News

FAO BLMK – URGENT- Private Prescription Alert for Weight Loss Drugs

BLMK ICB have been made aware of individuals trying to obtain weight loss medication using fraudulent private prescriptions, whilst this is not a financial loss to the ICB it is a criminal offence under the Medicines Act 1968. It is a patient safety risk, and a risk to the pharmacist's professional registration. **Please check your emails from BLMK ICB**, which details the checks you should follow if you are presented with a private prescription.

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 interest 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 contract can benefit from the opportunity to contract with WNC at this time.

Training & Events

Webinar on Pharmacy Contraception Service.

BLMK-N LPC and Hertfordshire LPC held a successful joint webinar on Tuesday 20 May, focusing on Initiation and key changes to the service.

If you were unable to attend the event, we have now added the webinar and presentation slides to our [BLMK-N LPC website](#).

If you would like to attend a future event, CPPE are running in-person events on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 24 June 2025, 19:00 – 21:00** – Collingtree Golf Club, 90 Windingbrooke Lane, Northampton, NN4 0XN. Booking reference 61499.
- **Wednesday 17 September 2025 19:00 – 21:00** – Welwyn Golf Club, Manicotts, High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7BP.

Both events have limited spaces and can be booked directly through [CPPE](#).

CPPE Update May 2025.

See below some highlights from the recent newsletter:

- PQS page has been updated with all of the latest news from the CPCF 2025 update with details of which CPPE programmes are needed for meeting PQS learning requirements
- Resources around mental health including their latest podcast and a new online focal point topic on Depression – having meaningful conversations.

Greener Pharmacy Toolkit now available.

Commissioned by NHS England and supported by the Greener NHS programme, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Greener Pharmacy Toolkit is available for use by pharmacy teams across the country. The toolkit is easy to use and provides prompts for more sustainable practices to reduce emissions, improve patient care, prevent ill health, tackle medicines waste and achieve efficiency savings. [Register for a webinar](#) on **29 May 2025 7pm – 8pm** to find out more about the toolkit.

[PCN Lead Paras Maroo Radio Interview.](#)

PCN Lead and Pharmacist Paras Maroo was recently interviewed on In2Beats radio show talking about Blood Pressure and the Hypertension Case Finding Service.

Listen to the full interview [here](#).

[Funding for community pharmacy technician apprenticeship programme 2025.](#)

The community pharmacy technician apprenticeship programme has been launched for 2025, supporting Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians (PTPTs) to complete a 24-month apprenticeship in community pharmacy. Successful applicants will receive a training contribution of £15,053 per trainee per year for two years to support community pharmacies in developing a PTPT programme which meets the [GPhC IET standards for pharmacy technicians](#) and the [NHS England Education Quality Framework](#). The application window is open until **Sunday 15 June 2025**. Pharmacy contractors interested in accessing this funding will need to submit an [expression of interest online application form](#).

[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**.

[Reminders](#)

[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. The claim window for Pharmacy First will be reduced to **one month** from June 2025. **This means, for example, for June 2025, claims must be made on MYS by the last day of July 2025.**

[Promoting NHS prescription prepayment certificates.](#)

Pharmacy owners can request posters to inform patients who require multiple prescription items about the cost-saving benefits of prepayment certificates. See additional [resources](#) [here](#).

[Lateral Flow Device \(LFD\) service: Changes to patient cohort eligibility.](#)

Following an update to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) [guidance on antiviral treatment for COVID-19](#), which removes some of the cohorts of patients eligible for these treatments, these changes will also need to be reflected in the LFD service. Pharmacy

owners are asked to brief their teams on the changes to the eligible patient cohorts for the service, update their standard operating procedure (SOP) for the service and stop supplying LFD tests to the patient groups as soon as they are able to do so. At the latest, this should be completed **by Monday 16 June 2025**.

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**.

End of antiviral medicine prescribing for 2024/25 influenza season.

As the circulation of influenza in the community has returned to baseline levels, the Department of Health and Social Care has published an alert to inform prescribers working in primary care and pharmacy teams that antiviral medicines should **no longer** be prescribed. Community pharmacists should no longer supply antiviral medicines for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza on a FP10 prescription form.

BLMK-N LPC WhatsApp Broadcast Group

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.

If you have already sent your details to be added to the Broadcast Group, please be assured that your number has been added.

WhatsApp broadcast messages appear in the recipients' individual chat windows, not in a shared group chat like regular WhatsApp groups. Each recipient receives the message as a normal individual message from you in their "Chats" tab.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- Individual Delivery:

When you send a message through a broadcast list, it's sent to each recipient individually, making it appear as a normal chat message from you.

- No Shared View:

Unlike group chats where everyone sees all messages, broadcast messages are delivered separately to each recipient.

- Private Replies:

If a recipient replies to your broadcast message, their reply will be sent privately to you, not to the entire broadcast list.

- Recipient Privacy:

The recipient won't know they received a broadcast message, and they won't see the other contacts on the broadcast list.

- One-to-Many Communication:

WhatsApp broadcast lists are designed for one-to-many communication, allowing you to reach multiple contacts with a single message.

Useful Links:

<https://cpe.org.uk>

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

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

[Drug Safety Updates.](#)

[Timelines for PQS Domains 2025/26.](#)

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