

For Action

Local News:

- FAO Milton Keynes – **MKUH now live with DMS.**
- FAO Northants – **Prepayment certificates for Care Leavers.**
- PNA Feedback required:
 - **Central Bedfordshire Friday 13 June.**
 - **Milton Keynes Saturday 21 June.**
 - **Bedford Saturday 21 June 2025.**
 - **West Northamptonshire 3 August 2025.**

Training & Events:

- Pharmacy Contraception Service webinar – **now added to BLMK–N LPC website.**
- Funding for Pharmacy Technician apprenticeship programme – **Deadline 15 June 2025.**
- NHS England Funded Independent Prescribing courses.
- CPE workshops.
- Independent Pharmacy Awards Nominations – **Deadline 15 July 2025.**

National News/Reminders:

- Provision of C-19 vacs for October 2025 – **Deadline 16 June 2025.**
- Changes to LFD Service – **Deadline by 16 June 2025.**
- Pharmacy Owners views survey on recent CPCF changes – **25 and 26 June 2025.**
- Pharmacy First bundling & FAQs.
- Data Security and Protection Toolkit submission – **Deadline by 30 June 2025.**
- Broadcast Group – **mobile number required from contractors.**

Local News

FAO Milton Keynes – Milton Keynes University Hospital (MKUH) now live with DMS.

Just a reminder that MKUH went live with the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) via PharmOutcomes on 22 May 2025, referrals will no longer be sent via email.

Please check your system regularly and action any referrals promptly. As a reminder, DMS is an essential service which all NHS Community Pharmacies are expected to provide.

FAO Northants – Prepayment certificates for Care Leavers.

Northamptonshire ICB will fund prescription prepayment certificates for care leavers for 2025/2026, recognising the increased disadvantage and risk of poor health outcomes of this group who are part of the Core2Oplus5 cohort. This follows on from a successful pilot of the scheme during 2024/25 and provides prepayment certificates to Northamptonshire care leavers aged 16 to 25 who are not entitled to free prescriptions via usual NHS exemptions.

Further details contained in this link: [Care Leaver Prescription Pre-payment certificate | Integrated Care Northamptonshire.](#)

PNA feedback required.

Please see below 4 draft PNAs that require feedback to ensure that the final published document is accurate, comprehensive and reflective of local need.

- **FAO Central Bedfordshire**

The consultation survey will close at **23:59 on Friday 13 June 2025**. The draft PNA and consultation survey can be accessed here: [Pharmaceutical needs consultation 2025 | Central Bedfordshire Council\(https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/306/your_voice_matters/1937/pharmaceutical_needs_consultation_2025\).](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/306/your_voice_matters/1937/pharmaceutical_needs_consultation_2025)

- **FAO Milton Keynes**

The consultation survey will close at **23:59 on Saturday 21 June 2025**. The draft PNA and consultation survey can be accessed here: [Have your say on pharmaceutical services in Milton Keynes | Milton Keynes City Council\(https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-pharmaceutical-services-milton-keynes\).](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-pharmaceutical-services-milton-keynes)

- **FAO Bedford**

The consultation survey will close at **23:59 on Saturday 21 June 2025**. The draft PNA and consultation survey can be accessed here: [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment consultation 2025 | Bedford Borough Council\(https://www.bedford.gov.uk/preview-link/node/15606/3fa40afb-fba8-4ce0-a744-f72b25950565\).](https://www.bedford.gov.uk/preview-link/node/15606/3fa40afb-fba8-4ce0-a744-f72b25950565)

- **FAO West Northamptonshire – Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).**

The Draft PNA is now ready for consultation which is taking place from now **until 3 August 2025**. As you are a neighbouring area, they would be grateful if you would support the HWB by reading the PNA and completing the survey which is hosted here [https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-pna-2025.](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-pna-2025)

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](#).

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](#).

NHS England funded independent prescribing courses 2025/26.

NHS England has [announced](#), that it has opened applications for pharmacists for funded independent prescribing courses.

Courses are available up to March 2026, with [several universities](#) offering multiple dates for cohort intakes. Start dates will depend on the university provider.

2025 Community Pharmacy England Workshops.

Ahead of negotiations on the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) for 2026/27 and beyond, Community Pharmacy England is keen to discuss pressing issues and the future of the sector with pharmacy owners and LPCs.

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**.

National News/Reminders

Provision of C-19 vacs from October 2025.

NHS England has opened the procurement process for pharmacies that wish to provide the COVID-19 vaccination service from their healthcare premises from 1st October 2025.

Most pharmacies already providing the service are contracted until 31 March 2026; those pharmacies **do not need** to re-apply in order to continue to provide the service from October 2025, as their contract already covers provision until 31 March 2026.

Guidance documents and details on how pharmacy owners can submit a response, can be found on the [NHS Business Services Authority's webpage](#).

Pharmacy owners who plan to apply to provide the service should read the guidance (which outlines key deadlines and processes) and contractual agreements (which are available on the [NHS England website](#)) and submit their response document by the deadline.

Review the guidance.

The interim response deadline for submissions for the Autumn/Winter 2025/26 campaign is **11:59pm on 16 June 2025**.

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**.

Pharmacy owner views sought on recent CPCF changes and their financial resilience.

Community pharmacy owners are being asked to share their views on pharmacy service developments and their financial security, ahead of the next full Community Pharmacy England Committee meeting taking place at the end of this month (**25 and 26 June**).

Pharmacy First: Changes to the claim period.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has [published a news story](#), on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, highlighting that from 1st June 2025 pharmacy owners who have not yet claimed for Pharmacy First consultations carried out in March, April and May 2025 must claim these by **11.59pm on 30 June 2025** to receive payment.

Pharmacy First: Summary of changes from 1st June 2025.

From **1 June 2025** several changes take effect for the Pharmacy First service following the announcement of these as part of the [contractual settlement for 2025/26](#).

See below some frequently asked questions on Pharmacy First:

Q. Can a pharmacy choose to just provide Pharmacy First and not the Pharmacy Contraception Service and/or Hypertension Case-Finding Service?

Yes. The pharmacy can choose to just provide Pharmacy First and they will still be paid for the

consultations they provide. However, they will not be entitled to the monthly payment even if they meet the minimum number of Clinical pathways consultations in a month.

Q. Will a pharmacy be automatically de-registered from Pharmacy First if they have not signed up to the Pharmacy Contraception Service and Hypertension Case-Finding Service* by 1 June 2025?

No. Pharmacies will not be automatically de-registered from Pharmacy First. As stated above, pharmacy owners can choose to just provide this service.

Q. If I'm not ready to provide all three services by 1 June 2025, can I register for the services at a later date; will I then be eligible for the monthly payment?

Yes, you can register at a later date if you are not ready to register for the three services by 11.59pm on 31 May 2025 and provide the services from 1 June 2025. If, for example, you are ready to provide the three services by the middle of June 2025, if you then register on the MYS portal to provide all three services by 11.59pm on 30 June 2025, you will be entitled to the July monthly payment if you also meet the minimum number of Clinical pathway consultations in July.

DSP market entry to close plus core opening hours and other regulatory changes.

Important regulatory changes to the community pharmacy sector – including those on distance selling premises (DSP) pharmacies and core opening hours – have been laid before Parliament and will come into force on **23 June 2025**.

Guidance on the correct use of the 'FS' (0017) exemption category.

Community Pharmacy England would like to remind pharmacy owners of the correct use of the exemption reason '*Was prescribed free-of-charge STI sexual health medication*' coded '0017'.

Reminder: less than 1 month to go to complete the Data Security & Protection Toolkit 2025.

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**.

NHS England launches vaccine IT system framework.

NHS England has announced the launch of a new community pharmacy Point of Care (PoC) IT Supplier Contractual Framework, which will allow pharmacy owners to choose which PoC system they use to make their clinical records for the [Flu](#) and COVID-19 vaccination services during the Autumn/Winter 2025/26 campaign.

Prescription tracking goes live in NHS App

Millions of patients can track their prescriptions thanks to the rollout of a [new feature in the NHS App](#) helping to reduce unnecessary calls and visits to pharmacies.

NHS England has announced that nearly 1,500 community pharmacies are now offering the service, which enables patients to check on their prescriptions through real-time 'Amazon-style' updates.

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.

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