

For Action

Local News:

- FAO BLMK – The ADHERE Trial.
- FAO BLMK – Funded opportunity to train as an Independent Prescriber – **Deadline 13 July 2025.**
- PNA Feedback required:
 - **Luton – 3 August 2025.**
 - **West Northamptonshire – 3 August 2025.**

Training & Events:

- NHSBSA online webinars – **from Tuesday 8 July 14:00.**
- DMS webinar – **Wednesday 9 July 12:15 – 13:00.**
- Pharmacy Contraception service in-person event – **17 September 2025 19:00–21:00.**
- NHS England Funded Independent Prescribing courses.
- Independent Pharmacy Awards Nominations – **Deadline 15 July 2025.**
- Registration is now open for the Pharmacy Show 2025 – **12 & 13 October 2025.**

National News/Reminders:

- CPAF Screening questionnaire available to complete – **from 1 July 2025.**
- DMS shortened claim journey – **Starts from 6 July 2025.**
- New application route to rearrange core opening hours.
- Autumn/winter 2025/26 Flu & C-19 vac programme timings confirmed.

Local News

FAO BLMK – The ADHERE Trial

BLMK ICB are working with the University of Bedfordshire on the ADHERE trial, using Automatic Medication Dispensers to improve medication adherence for adults aged 65+ with long term conditions. If you are interested in taking part in the trial, please contact Jodi Emma Wainwright JodiEmma.Wainwright@beds.ac.uk for more information.

FAO BLMK – Funded opportunity to train as an Independent Prescriber –Deadline 13 July 2025

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a regional '**Teach & Treat**' project, supporting Independent Prescribing (IP) training for community pharmacists in Bedfordshire Luton and Milton Keynes ICS.

Funding Available:

- Successful applicants will be provided with a DPP plus additional, quality assured, IP training & support

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Intention to Enrol:** You must be able to start a GPhC-accredited IP training programme in **September 2025**
- **BLMK Practice:** You must work as a community pharmacist within the BLMK area for at least three days per week
- **Employer Support:** Your employer must provide necessary support for your training, including appropriate cover during your absence (no backfill costs will be covered)

Key Training Considerations:

- **Course options:** Accredited IP courses typically span six months and combine face-to-face teaching sessions (often one day per week) with self-directed study. We are working with two universities, **University of East Anglia** and **University of Hertfordshire**; if successful, you'd need to be willing to attend the IP course at one of these (course fees covered by NHS England – see below)
- **Learning Requirements:** All courses necessitate a minimum of 26 days of formal teaching and learning activities. Additionally, you will be required to complete at least 12 days (90 hours) of supervised practice-based learning under the guidance of a DPP

Application Process:

- To apply for this funding opportunity, please complete the online expression of interest form by **midnight Sunday 13 July**. Link to expression of interest form [link](#) or use the QR code below:

**Important Resources:**

- For further information on NHS England-funded IP courses, please visit: [Link](#)
- A comprehensive East of England Teach & Treat FAQ document is attached

Questions?

For any inquiries regarding this funding opportunity, please contact Funmi Balogun at:

f.balogun1@mhs.net.

BLMK-N LPC news.

BLMK-N LPC are currently in the process of checking/updating all of the information that they have for contractors. Over the next few weeks each pharmacy will receive a call from Lorna Girling to check that the information we hold is correct.

PNA feedback required.

Please see below 2 draft PNAs that require feedback to ensure that the final published document is accurate, comprehensive and reflective of local need.

- **FAO Luton.**

The consultation survey will close **on 3 August 2025**. The draft PNA and consultation survey can be accessed here: [Luton Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025.](#)

- **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

NHSBSA Online Webinars for Pharmacy Teams.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) host webinars to provide an insight into how they process and reimburse prescriptions. These sessions take place online and last approximately 60 minutes. During the sessions, pharmacy teams are shown how NHSBSA handle prescription submissions and are given an overview of the most common errors found on prescriptions submitted for payment. There are 10 webinars in total with the first one taking place on **Tuesday 8 July at 2pm**.

Webinar – Bitesize lunch & learn – Discharge Medicines Scheme (DMS).

The Cardiac Network is pleased to offer a bite sized webinar presented by community pharmacist, Kevin Western, who has been instrumental in promoting the use of DMS within the East of England. Kevin will explain the process, how to refer and demonstrate the benefits to both the patient's safety and wellbeing as well as reducing pharmaceutical waste.

The event will be online on **Wednesday 9 July 12:15 – 13:00** [register here.](#)

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. We have **recently added** a question-and-answer pack for questions that were asked during the webinar.

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 an in-person event on:

Wednesday 17 September 2025 19:00 – 21:00 -Welwyn Golf Club, Manicotts, High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7BP. Book directly through [CPPE.](#)

[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.

[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**.

[The Pharmacy Show 2025.](#)

Registration is officially open for the Pharmacy show 2025, returning to the NEC Birmingham on **12 & 13 October**.

[National News/Reminders](#)

[2025/26 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework \(CPAF\) screening questionnaire.](#)

Pharmacy owners should soon receive confirmation from NHSBSA that the 2025/26 CPAF screening questionnaire will be available for completion **from 1st July 2025**.

As a result of NHS regulations introduced at the end of 2020, completion of CPAF is now a requirement of the Terms of Service. **Therefore, pharmacy owners must complete the screening questionnaire and, if required, the full CPAF questionnaire.**

[New shortened claim journey for DMS is live.](#)

The new streamlined process for making claims for the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) is now live. The new process, which has been agreed following feedback about the previous lengthy process from Community Pharmacy England, should be used to claim for any activity for DMS that has been completed since 1 July 2025. It should also be used for DMS data of activity started on or before 30 June 2025 but **not completed**.

[New application route to rearrange core opening hours.](#)

The new application route for rearranging core opening hours has now come into force. This follows on from the laying of the relevant regulations in Parliament on 2 June, see [announcement](#). The new application for rearranging core opening hours is available [here](#), it will be available on the [NHS website](#) in due course.

Autumn/winter 2025–26 Flu & C-19 vac programme timings confirmed.

Timings and cohorts have been announced for Flu and covid vaccinations. The National Booking Service (NBS) will be opened for participating sites to post flu and COVID-19 vaccination appointments from **18 August 2025**, and it will be open for bookings from the public from **1 September 2025** for vaccination from **1 October 2025**.

10-Year Plan: Community pharmacies to play vital role in LTC support and vaccine delivery.

A plan to reform the health service – which includes a bigger role for community pharmacies – has been published by the Government. The highly anticipated [10-Year Health Plan](#) sets out the Government's priorities for healthcare in this Parliament and the next. For community pharmacy, the plan outlines an increasing role in the management of long-term conditions and delivery of vaccinations. It also commits to modernisation of dispensing and working to integrate community pharmacy into the Single Patient Record system which will be developed by the NHS.

Service fee advances.

Community Pharmacy England [recently announced](#) that consultation fees for the Hypertension Case-Finding Service (HCFS) and the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) are to be included in the advance payments issued to pharmacy owners by the NHS Business Services Authority. The first service fee advance was received on 12 May (for activity completed in April 2025) and this will be recovered on 1 July when the reconciliation payment is received for April.

2024 Workforce survey results published.

The results of the 2024 Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey have been [published by NHS England](#). The survey, which will be repeated later in the autumn, is intended to build a picture of the community pharmacy workforce, developing and strengthening the information available to support workforce planning.

Updated incident reporting approved particulars.

Following changes to the incident reporting process, a new [incident reporting approved particular has been published](#). This document replaces the previous approved particular, which has been in place since July 2024.

Contractors should familiarise themselves with the content of this new document to ensure they understand what is considered an incident and what is required should an incident occur.

Advance notice: Updated Pharmacy First clinical pathways and PGDs.

In the autumn of last year, NHS England started a clinical review of the Pharmacy First clinical pathways and patient group directions (PGD), informed by feedback received from pharmacy teams and other stakeholders, including Community Pharmacy England.

The changes to the PGDs are mostly minor, addressing minor errors in the current PGDs and amending wording to provide greater clarity for pharmacists providing the service.

The commencement date for use of the revised patient pathways and PGDs will be announced by NHS England in due course.

Updated PCS service spec and PGDs published ahead of changes later in the year.

In the **recent CPCF funding settlement**, it was agreed that changes would be made to the **Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS)** to include drospirenone within the list of contraceptives which can be supplied and to add oral emergency contraception (EC) to the service.

The commencement date for the revised service will be announced by NHS England in due course; this is provisionally scheduled for **October 2025**, but that is dependent on the necessary changes being made to IT systems.

Reminder: GLP-1 receptor agonists interactions with oral contraception – safety guidance.

Pharmacy owners providing the Pharmacy Contraception Service are reminded that the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) advises that individuals use contraception whilst using Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonists, with additional advice for those using tirzepatide.

Environment Agency drops proposed charge for T28 registration.

The Environment Agency has **published its response** to the Waste Charges Consultation, which indicates our efforts to stop an increase in charges for community pharmacies have been successful.

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**