Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 18 August 2025

For Action

Local News:

- Engaging with your local MP.
- Bank Holiday information – **25 August 2025**.

Training & Events:

- Childhood flu Vaccination Service Webinar – **20 August 7:30pm**.
- Red Flags Training Webinar – **2 September 7:30pm – 9:30pm – Waiting list.**
- BLMK-N LPC contractors' event - **17 September 7:00pm – 9:30pm**.
- NHS England Funded Independent Prescribing courses.
- Registration is now open for the Pharmacy Show 2025 – **12 & 13 October 2025**.

National News/Reminders:

- Children's Flu vac registration now open - **Sign up from 1 August 2025**.
- Flu Vaccination for pregnant women – **Starts from 1 September 2025**.
- Reminder on PQS Gateway Criterion – **31 August 2025**.
- PQS – Publication of clinical audit – **From 1 September 2025**.
- Reminder of regulatory changes.
- Reminder to sign up to Primary Care Bulletin
- Have your say- poll open for 2026/27 funding negotiations

Local News

Engaging with your local MP.

LPC's and Pharmacy owners have been engaging with politicians for many years now. It is important that we all continue to showcase the vital role pharmacies play in supporting local health priorities and delivering accessible, patient -centred care and support from politicians across the political spectrum.

We have a range of guidance and templates to help support you in engaging with your local MP, please contact office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk.

Bank Holiday Pharmacy openings - 25 August 2025.

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded of the Terms of Service requirement to ensure they verify and, where necessary, update the information contained in their NHS and DoS Profile.

If you have not done so, please can pharmacies check their NHS Profile Manager and update their opening hours relating to the bank holiday.

Training & Events

Childhood Flu Vaccination Service webinar.

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar about the new Childhood Flu Vaccination Service, in collaboration with NHS England, on **Wednesday 20 August at 7.30pm**.
Book your place now.
Bookings will close at midday on Wednesday 20 August. A link to join the webinar will be emailed to you on the day of the event.

Red Flags Training webinar – Tuesday 2 September 2025 7:30pm – 9:30pm.

BLMK- N LPC have arranged a webinar on how to address red flags with confidence, with training by Dr Ian Hill-Smith and Dr Gina Johnson. Only 45 places available (1 person per pharmacy)
Register for the event **here**.

Please note – Due to high demand the 45 places have been filled, however, if you are still interested, you can **register to join the waiting list,** and you will be contacted if a place becomes available. If there is enough interest, we will look to arrange a second Red Flags webinar in the near future.

NEW – BLMK-N LPC presents an evening to Connect, Collaborate & Converse.

This face-to-face event will bring together Pharmacists, LPC members, PCN Leads & Industry Stakeholders.
Join us on **Wednesday 17 September 2025, 7pm–9:30pm** at **The Rufus Centre, Flitwick, Bedford, MK45 1AH.**
Food served at 7pm with event starting at 8pm.
Register here by **Monday 1 September** to secure your place.

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.

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

Children's Flu Vac: Registration has now opened.
Registration for the new Children's Flu Vaccination Service for children aged 2-3 years is now open on the NHS Business Services Authority's **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**.
As **announced last week**, this is one-season trial of the new Advanced service and pharmacy owners that choose to provide the service will be able to commence vaccinating eligible children from 1 October 2025.

To receive vaccine ahead of the start of the service on 1 October 2025, pharmacy owners will need to register on the MYS portal by **11.59pm on 31 August 2025**. Later registration will be possible, but the provision of the centrally procured vaccine will be received after the starting date for the service. More information on the service can be found on the **Community Pharmacy England website**.

Reminder - Flu vaccination for pregnant women.
flu vaccination for pregnant women will start from **1st September 2025** and vaccination for all other eligible adult cohorts will **start from 1st October 2025.**

Getting ready for the Flu Vaccination Service: Have you chosen your IT system yet?
IT suppliers listed on the new framework will be assured by NHS England as having met specific minimum standards. Community pharmacy owners carrying out these services will be able to choose, ahead of the autumn/winter campaigns, one of the assured PoC systems.

2025/26 Flu PGDs and Protocol have been published.
The Flu PGDs and Protocol have been published on GOV.UK and are available via the following links:

- **Inactivated Influenza Vaccine PGD Template**
- **Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine PGD Template**
- **Inactivated Influenza Vaccine National Protocol**

Reminder on PQS - Gateway Criterion.
Pharmacy owners must have signed up to deliver the Pharmacy First Service and the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) **by Sunday 31 August 2025** and **remain registered for both services until the end of the scheme, 31 March 2026**.

Pharmacy owners will not be required to make a declaration for this gateway criterion as this will be verified by a post payment review of the pharmacy owner's declaration to deliver the service and subsequent registration from 1 September 2025 until the end of the scheme, 31 March 2026. Pharmacy owners should note that they will **not be able** to claim payment for the quality criteria during the declaration period if the gateway criterion has not been met.

PQS: Publication of clinical audit.

NHS England has published the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Antimicrobial stewardship – Pharmacy First consultations – Clinical Audit.

Completion of the audit, as well as sharing anonymised data with NHS England and incorporating any learnings from the audit into future practice by the end of 31 March 2026, is a quality criterion in the Patient safety domain of the 2025/26 Scheme.

Although the audit has been published today, pharmacy teams should not start the audit until **1 September 2025** at the earliest.

Contract changes: Summary of regulatory changes.

We wanted to remind you of some of the regulation changes detailed in **the contractual settlement for 2025/26**.

- **Clinical audits:** During 2025/26, there is no requirement to complete a nationally chosen or pharmacy owner selected clinical audit.
- **Health campaigns:** During 2025/26, pharmacies only have to take part in a maximum of two national health campaigns and two campaigns selected by their Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- **Practice leaflets:** The requirement to produce a practice leaflet will be removed.
- **References for new staff:** The requirement to seek references for staff involved in NHS services will be removed.
- **Patients signing prescription declarations:** The requirement for patients that pay an NHS prescription charge to complete and sign the declaration on the rear of the prescription form or EPS token will be removed.
- **NHS Profile Manager:** CPE will work with NHS England to seek to ensure pharmacy owners' NHS website and Directory of Services (DoS) Profiles within NHS Profile Manager are comprehensive and accurate.

Future CPCF: What's most important to you?

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) want to hear community pharmacy owners' opinions on the future direction of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) to help shape negotiating priorities for 2026/27.

Ahead of CPCF 2026/27 negotiations, our summer survey aims to gather views on potential funding allocations, service priorities and regulatory asks. Pharmacy owners can directly input into the Committee's discussions via this poll:
Poll: 2026/27 CPCF Negotiating Priorities (for independent and non-CCA multiples only)

The survey will close at **11.59pm on Monday 8 September 2025** to allow time for the Committee to review responses before its meeting. **Please note, this survey is for community pharmacy owners only – CCA multiple branches do not need to respond, as their head offices will be contacted separately.**

DHSC outlines work to improve medicines supply.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published details of its ongoing work and plans to improve the management of medicines supply issues. This includes a commitment to consulting on the introduction of pharmacist flexibilities to supply alternatives when a medicine is in short supply.

Rollout of prescription status info in the NHS App continues.

The National Patient Prescription Tracking Service (NPPTS) enables patients to access and track their prescriptions online through the NHS App or their NHS account (by logging in on the NHS website).

Medicines not covered by the HRT PPC.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has seen an increase in the number of prescriptions from patients using the "*HRT only prescription prepayment certificate*" prescription charge exemption category for products that are not covered by the HRT Prescription Prepayment Certificate (HRT PPC).

Pharmacies to prepare for national digital phoneline switchover.

The Government is advising community pharmacy owners to take action to prepare for the upcoming national switch-off of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), which is due to be fully decommissioned by January 2027.

NHS England » Primary Care bulletin The Primary Care bulletin is for teams across general practice, dentistry, community pharmacy and optometry providing information weekly on health practice and policy. Please consider signing up.

Have your say- 2026/27 funding negotiations poll open now

Community Pharmacy England wants to know what pharmacy owners in BLMK-N would like to see in the 2026/27 CPCF. A new opinion poll is asking how you think funding should be allocated, what regulatory changes might help your pharmacy, and which services to consider introducing. Findings from the survey will inform national negotiating priorities and contribute to efforts to push for further improvements and support for the sector. The poll will be open until **11.59pm on Monday 8th September**.

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.
Translation Services – Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants.
MECC – BLMK.
MECC – Northants.