

## For Action

### Local News:

- FAO MK – Possible upcoming changes for Opiate Substitution Therapy (OST) provision.
- Primary Care Cybersecurity pilot – opportunity to get involved – **by 8 August 2025**.
- MECC signposting links.
- BLMK – Care Homes Newsletter.

### Training & Events:

- Red Flags Training Webinar – **2 September 2025 7:30pm – 9:30pm – Waiting list**.
- Save the date – Face to Face meeting – **17 September 2025 7:00pm – 9:30pm**.
- PCN Lead Hassan Mohammed – radio interview on hypertension.
- 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 vac National Booking System – register up to **11 August 2025**.
- Reminder on PQS Gateway Criterion – **31 August 2025**.
- Reminder to update your NHS Profile Manager.

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## Local News

### FAO Milton Keynes – Possible upcoming changes to the Opiate Substitution Therapy (OST) provision.

Possible upcoming changes to the **Opiate Substitution Therapy (OST)** provision from Thames Valley Police (TVP) Custody Suites, which may affect a small number of patients in **MK area**. Following a successful pilot launched on 10 March 2025 at Maidenhead Custody Suite in Frimley, where no issues or concerns were reported, the new OST collection pilot process will be rolled out across the Thames Valley region, which may include some parts of **Milton Keynes**, starting **Monday 11 August 2025**.

Under the pilot processes, detainees on methadone or buprenorphine substitution therapy will be offered the option for a **police officer to collect their daily supervised dose** on their behalf. A **Bearer's Note** will accompany the officer to support this request. Further detail, including your responsibilities as the Responsible Pharmacist (RP), is outlined in the [attached letter](#), please pay particular attention to **Appendix 1**.

Pharmacies are unlikely to notice significant operational changes, but we wanted to keep you informed in advance.

### **Primary Care Cybersecurity Pilot – Get Involved**

NHS England is inviting **general practice, community pharmacy, optometry, and dental providers** to join a new pilot to strengthen cyber resilience across primary care.

Backed by the National Cyber Security Centre's [Small Business Guide](#), this programme offers **free access** to tailored tools, practical resources, and expert advice.

**Why join?** Participating organisations will help shape future national support and benefit from:

- Boosted staff confidence in spotting and reporting cyber threats
- Access to free NCSC resources for small organisations
- Peer support and collaboration
- Real improvements in cyber hygiene
- Direct links to expert guidance and local cyber networks

**Want to take part?** Send your Expression of Interest to [chan.maher@nhs.net](mailto:chan.maher@nhs.net) by **8 August 2025**, including:

- Organisation name
- ODS code(s)
- Primary contact name and email
- Confirmation you're happy to participate

**What happens next?** A small cohort will be selected to join the pilot from September. Future phases will expand the offer more widely.

Questions? Get in touch via [chan.maher@nhs.net](mailto:chan.maher@nhs.net).

**Making Every Contact Count (MECC) – Simple signposting to better health and wellbeing.**

[BLMK](#)

[Northants](#)

**FAO BLMK – [Care Homes Newsletter – July 2025.](#)**

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# Training & Events

## NEW – 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.

## Save the date – A chance to connect, share and learn.

We're excited to invite **all contractors** to an evening of connection, collaboration, and conversation.

Join us on **Wednesday 17 September 2025, 19:00–21:30** at **The Rufus Centre, Flitwick, Bedford.**

This face-to-face event will bring together **pharmacy contractors, LPC committee members, PCN leads, and wider stakeholders** — your local pharmacy community — for an evening to:

- **Connect** with colleagues across the system
- **Share** ideas, experiences, and insights
- **Learn** about current developments and upcoming opportunities
- **Socialise** over good food in a relaxed setting

More details to follow soon!

## PCN Lead, Hassan Mohammed, Radio Interview on Hypertension.

PCN Lead and Pharmacist Hassan Mohammed, was recently interviewed on In2Beats radio show talking about Blood Pressure and the Hypertension Case Finding Service within Community Pharmacy.

## 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.**

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## 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](#).

### Flu Vaccinations: National Booking System available for pharmacies.

Community pharmacies providing the Flu Vaccination Advanced Service are being invited to make use of the National Booking System (NBS). NHS England has announced that any pharmacies who have yet to register with the NBS, can do so for the 2025/26 flu season.

If your pharmacy would like to take up the offer of its use, you will need to complete an [NBS flu form](#) **between 24 July and 11 August** to receive login details before 18 August 2025.

### Reminder: Respecting EPS nomination principles and patient choice.

Community pharmacy teams are reminded of the importance of aligning with the EPS nomination principles and upholding patient choice at all times.

EPS allows patients to nominate a preferred pharmacy where their prescriptions will be sent electronically for dispensing. This system is designed to offer convenience and flexibility—but it must be used responsibly.

### Reminder on PQS – Gateway Criterion.

Pharmacy owners must have signed up to deliver the Pharmacy First Service and the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) **by the end of 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.

### Reminder: Updating your NHS Profile Manager.

Pharmacy owners are reminded of the benefits of regularly updating their NHS Profile Manager each quarter, ensuring their NHS website and Directory of Services (DoS) profile information remains current.

### Upcoming changes to the MYS Portal.

Changes are being made to the Manage Your Service (MYS) pharmacy portal, aimed at improving user experience. The new-look portal will be launched on **Thursday 21 August 2025**. Please note: the MYS portal will be temporarily unavailable between **7:00am to 8:30am** on **Thursday 21 August 2025** whilst NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) make the changes.

### NHSBSA 'Hints & Tips' – Issue 60.

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) produces a quarterly newsletter called "Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors". The latest edition (Issue 60) contains some useful information and advice.

### Labelling of Dispensed Oral Medicines for Children.

This document outlines easy to understand and patient-focused labelling practices, which are essential to support safe administration of medicines.

### Patient Safety Commissioner – Annual report 2024-25.

The PSC Annual Report for 2024-25 summarises the work of the Commissioner.

### Reminder – 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.

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### 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.](#)