Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 15 September 2025

For Action

Local News:

- FAO BLMK – Health Promotion Campaign.
- FAO BLMK - Paid Pharmacy Research opportunity.
- Sepsis & Minor illness information.

Training & Events:

- AGM – Virtually on **17 September 1pm**.
- BLMK-N LPC contractors' event - **17 September 7:00pm – 9:30pm**.
- FAO Luton – ResoLUTiONs Pharmacy Training Event – **24 September 7:00pm – 9:30pm.**
- Northants – ICB engagement event – **24 September 2-2:30pm**.
- Registration is open for the Pharmacy Show 2025 – **12 & 13 October 2025**.

National News/Reminders:

- Childhood Flu Vaccination – **PGD Published.**
- Additional 1 October regulatory changes.

Local News

FAO BLMK – Health Promotion Campaign

All BLMK contractors should have received an email, from the ICB, to their NHS email account w/c 1 September. The email contains the following information:

As part of the **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 2025/26**, all contractors are required to participate in:

- **Up to two national public health campaigns**
- **Two ICB-selected local health promotion campaigns**

Following consultation with key system stakeholders including the **LPC**, **Public Health**, and **ICB Primary Care leaders**, we are pleased to confirm the two ICB-led campaigns for BLMK this year, both aligned with national campaigns and existing pharmacy services.

1. Hypertension Awareness Campaign

Timeline: 4–6 weeks from early September 2025

Purpose: To maximise the impact of the national, **Know Your Numbers Week(8-14TH September** by identifying undiagnosed hypertension and managing patients already on antihypertensives

Target Cohorts:

- Adults aged 40+ with no recent BP recorded
- Patients on antihypertensive medication with no recent BP record
- Underserved populations

2. Smoking Cessation Support Campaign
Timeline: October 2025, aligned with the national **Stoptober** campaign
Purpose: To encourage quit attempts through pharmacy engagement and refer patients into commissioned Stop Smoking Services, offering NRT and brief interventions
Target Cohorts:

- Adult smokers, especially those receiving flu/COVID vaccines
- General population visiting pharmacy during flu season

Please complete campaign **data collection** via the following MS Forms link:

- **Hypertension Campaign Evaluation**
- **Stop Smoking Campaign Evaluation**

🔔 Reminder
Your participation in these campaigns is a contractual requirement. These campaigns are also a significant opportunity to demonstrate the value of community pharmacy in prevention, health promotion, and health inequalities.

FAO BLMK - **Paid Pharmacy Research Opportunity.**
Study Details: We are looking for pharmacies to promote the INDIGO Study. The study is looking for participants over the age of 16, who have had any type of cancer diagnosis. This study uses an on-line digital survey tool to understand how a person feels about their quality of life, along with their experiences of care following a cancer diagnosis.

Pharmacy activities: Pharmacies will passively promote this study by displaying study posters and by having a supply of study leaflets available for customers to pick up if the study is of interest to them. The posters and flyers will include details of the website along with a QR code which customers can use to access the survey. We will ask participating pharmacies to monitor the number of leaflets given out per week/month and to contact the RRDN to request additional leaflets if needed.

Pharmacy payments: Each participating pharmacy will receive **£150** payment for undertaking the above activities. This payment will be paid at the end of the study (currently 01/12/2025). Pharmacies will need to have a category C contract in place in order to receive the payment. This can be arranged with the RRDN finance team easily via email.

Next steps:
If you would like further information regarding the study, please visit the study website: **https://www.computationaloncology.net/indigo**
If you would like to express an interest in participating in this study, please complete the expression of interest form **here**
If you have further questions regarding the study or questions regarding the category C contract, please email **eoe.rrdn@nihr.ac.uk**.

Please note:
Pharmacies can only be set up via the RRDN (please do contact the Study Team directly).
We currently have spaces for 20 pharmacies which will be evenly spread throughout the East of England, meaning approximately 4 in the area will be chosen.

Sepsis & Minor illness information.
At our recent Red Flag event, Dr Ian Hill-Smith and Dr Gina Johnson have kindly shared the following useful information, NMIC Sepsis Toolkit app is available free from the Apple store **here**.
Relevant references can be found at **minorillness.co.uk/redflags**.

Training & Events

AGM 2024/25.
We are holding our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 17 September** at **1pm**.
The meeting will be held virtually, and you are more than welcome to join us using the following **link**.

Reminder – 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.
If you would like to join us, please email **office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk** to secure your place.

FAO Luton - **ResoLUTiONs Pharmacy Training Event**.
ResoLUTiONs will be holding a Pharmacy training event on the **24 September 2025**, at The HUB in Luton, **7pm – 9:30pm**.
To register your place, RSVP to **Jessica.Chance@cgl.org.uk**.

FAO Northants – **ICB-CP Engagement Event**.
The next ICB-CP engagement event for community pharmacy will be taking place on **Wednesday 24 September 14:00-14:30** and their main topic will be the IP Pathfinder programme (guest speakers are Shahid Chowdhury, Pharmacist Independent Prescriber and Rashmi Parmar, Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist, Arden & Gem CSU).

Please watch out for the agenda and Teams invite which will be sent out to all CPs directly from the ICB.

East of England CPPE update.
A variety of online workshops running from October to December 2025, are now live for booking.

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

Childhood Flu Vac: PGD published.
NHS England has authorised and published the patient group direction (PGD) for use in the new Childhood Flu Vaccination Advanced service **from 1st October 2025**.

Additional 1 October Regulatory Changes.
Several regulatory changes are due to come into effect on 1 October, having been included in the amendment regulations (**The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025**) laid before Parliament last week.

These additional changes include Terms of Service changes relating to practice leaflets, minor changes for clarification purposes, and the addition of the HPV vaccine to the list of those that can be supplied to community pharmacies via centrally procured stock.

Pharmacy IT workstreams update published as IT group meets.
Community Pharmacy England has released an IT bulletin update ahead of the Community Pharmacy IT Group (**CP ITG**) meeting for its Autumn meeting.

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.
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