Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 29 September 2025

For Action

Local News:

- Connect, Collaborate & Converse Event.
- Careers Spotlight – Pharmacy Technician Video
- FAO Northants – EMICAS poster.
- FAO BLMK – MiDoS access for BLMK Community pharmacies.
- GP Connect Access Record – 1 October.
- FAO BLMK – Paid Pharmacy Research Opportunity.

Training & Events:

- Emergency contraception and the PCS Webinar– **9 October 7:30pm**.
- Health Watch – Central Bedfordshire Event – **3 October 10:00am – 2:00pm**.
- Registration for the Pharmacy Show 2025 – **12 & 13 October 2025**.
- Pharmacy Technician Webinar – **20 October 12:00 – 1:30pm**.

National News/Reminders:

- 2025 **mandatory** workforce survey – **closing date Friday 21 November**.
- Childhood Flu Vaccination – **PGD Published & Resources.**
- Update your NHS profile information – **30 September**.
- Patient Safety Incident Reporting.
- Reminder of CPCF changes – **key dates**.
- Your views required on **Enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines**.

Local News

BLMK-N LPC - Connect, Collaborate & Converse Event.

On 17 September, BLMK & Northants LPC hosted a successful evening at the Rufus Centre, bringing together more than 30 contractors alongside colleagues from the ICB, Public Health, CGL and CPPE.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration, connection, and conversation. Building on the positive feedback received, we look forward to future events that strengthen collaboration with contractors and stakeholders across the region.

Careers Spotlight – Pharmacy Technician
BLMK-N LPC have coproduced a video that highlights the important role of a Pharmacy Technician. We are happy for this video to be shared and used in the recruitment of Pharmacy Technicians for your pharmacy.

FAO Northants – East Midlands Immunisation Clinical Advice Service (EMICAS).
All routine immunisation enquiries or incidents should be sent to the EMICAS inbox: **england.imms@nhs.net** (Please include your pharmacy name and ODS code in the email title, in order for them to appropriately record and audit queries and incidents).

FAO BLMK - **MiDoS Access for BLMK Community Pharmacies.**
BLMK ICB have been rolling out the 'MiDoS' tool to health, social, community, mental health and voluntary sector professionals across BLMK. MiDoS is an online service directory that has been developed locally with robust validation processes in place with the main benefit being that the services are all in one central place. The MiDoS directory contains a wide range of services that can support professionals with signposting patients to alternative services that may meet their need.

All GP practices and PCNs have been given access to MiDoS and the ICB are now giving community pharmacies access to the tool. MiDoS can be accessed via the relevant link below:

- **Central Beds**
- **Bedford Borough**
- **Luton**
- **Milton Keynes**

Community pharmacies are able to access this link via mobile phones and a computer.

BLMK residents will be given access to a public MiDoS page during October 2025 and will have their own link to MiDoS so please **do not** share your MiDoS link with the public as it will not have the correct permission levels for public use. Further communications will be sent in due course to confirm that residents have been given access.

If any community pharmacies have any questions or would like to arrange to have a demo of MiDoS please contact **blmkicb.dos@nhs.net** and the team will get back to you.

GP contract changes 2025/26: key requirements from 1 October 2025.
Following the letter of 28 February 2025 about agreed changes to the GP Contract in 2025/26, in August NHS England sent a reminder to GP practices of three key requirements taking effect from **1 October 2025**. These are:

- online consultation tools must be switched on for the duration of core hours
- **You and Your General Practice must be on practice websites**
- GP Connect Access Record (HTML and Structured) and Update Record must be enabled within GP Practice clinical systems.

From **1 October 2025**, all practices will be required to have their online consultation system available during core hours for non-urgent appointment requests, medication queries and admin

requests. This is to support equitable access across the three contact routes – phone, online and walk-in.

More information on the GP Connect: Update record can be found on the **CPE Website**.

FAO BLMK - **Paid Pharmacy Research Opportunity.**
The East of England Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN) 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. Each participating pharmacy will receive **£150** payment for undertaking the above activities.
If you would like further information regarding the study, please visit the study website: **https://www.computationaloncology.net/indigo**

Training & Events

Webinar: Emergency contraception and the PCS.
Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar about the changes to the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) **on Thursday 9 October at 7.30pm**.
The main changes to the service are the addition of oral emergency contraception to the service and the ability of pharmacy technicians to provide the service.

Book your place now - Bookings will close at **midday** on **Thursday 9 October 2025**, with a link to join the webinar being **emailed to all attendees** on **the afternoon of 9 October 2025**.

Health Watch – Central Bedfordshire – Event.
Festival for Older People – "Leave no one behind: promoting a society for all"
On **Friday 3 October 10:00am to 2:00pm** at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick, MK45 1AH, we are delighted to announce that we will have pharmacists attending this event, run by Health Watch Central Bedfordshire, to administer the flu vaccination.

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

NHS England Midlands webinar: Showcasing the Pharmacy Technician profession across the Midlands for Pharmacy Technician Day 2025.
This virtual event will shine a spotlight on the incredible contributions of pharmacy technicians across our region, showcasing innovation, inspiration, and the evolving future of the profession.

The event is on **Monday 20 October 12:00 – 1:30pm via Microsoft Teams** and is open to all pharmacy professionals and anyone with an interest in the pharmacy technician profession.

What to Expect

- Guest speakers sharing reflections on their professional journeys
- Inspirational stories from pharmacy technicians across the Midlands
- Insightful discussions on the future of the profession and evolving roles
- Showcase of innovative practice from across our 11 systems
- Education and training opportunities to support career development

Register now: **Click here to register for the event**

National News/Reminders

2025 mandatory workforce survey open.

NHS England's annual Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey is now open.
Completion of the survey **is a mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners**.
The survey will **close at 11.59pm on Friday 21st November 2025.**

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**.

CPE has released a series of **resources** to help pharmacy owners and their teams to implement and promote the new Community Pharmacy NHS Childhood Flu Vaccination Service.

Update your NHS profile information for flu and COVID-19 offers including walk in options.

Community pharmacies are reminded to review and confirm their NHS profile information by **30 September 2025**. This process ensures the accuracy of information displayed on the NHS profile and within the Urgent and Emergency Care Directory of Services and supports preparations for the upcoming autumn and winter vaccination programme.

Pharmacies must use the **NHS Profile Manager** to verify and confirm contact details, facilities, opening times, and services. Service lists should be updated to reflect current flu and COVID-19 vaccination offerings, including age cohorts and booking methods including walk in options. For assistance, contact **nhswebsite.servicedesk@nhs.net**.

Patient safety incident reporting.

This is a reminder for pharmacies to continue to record patient safety incidents. It has been brought to our attention that the reporting rate from community pharmacies during vaccination season is disproportionately low compared to other providers.

Services: Summary of changes from 1 October 2025.

From **Wednesday 1 October**, several national services commence as well as the implementation of some of the service changes agreed in the 2025/26 CPCF settlement. Below is a summary of all of these service developments and additionally, several regulatory changes also come into effect from 1 October 2025.

- **1 October 2025**: Provisional date of implementation of revised Pharmacy First clinical pathways and Patient Group Directions (PGDs). IT system suppliers are planning to update their systems on the night of 30 September 2025 to align with these changes.
- **1 October 2025**, pharmacies registered to provide the services, can start to provide the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service and COVID-19 Vaccination Service.
- **29 October 2025**: Expansion of the Pharmacy Contraception Service to include the provision of oral emergency contraception and the inclusion of pharmacy technicians in service delivery.
- **29 October 2025**: Expansion of the New Medicine Service (NMS) to include depression as an eligible therapeutic area.

Pharmacy teams are encouraged to review the full announcement and stay informed about the specific dates and requirements for CPCF changes to ensure a smooth transition and continued delivery of services.

Reminder of contract changes for Pharmacy First bundling.

From **October 2025**, pharmacy owners are required to deliver one ABPM consultation per month (this requirement does not apply to Distance Selling Premises (DSP) pharmacies).

In anticipation of these changes coming into effect from **Wednesday 1 October 2025**, the **updated service documents have been published**.

As a reminder, for Pharmacy First self-triage, pharmacies that offer the Pharmacy First service can display a patient facing QR code, that is unique for their pharmacy. Patients are able to scan this code to access a quick pre-screening assessment for the seven common conditions. This QR code is available to pharmacies that use PharmOutcomes.

DSPs: Service changes from 1 October 2025.

Distance selling premises (DSP) pharmacies **will no longer be able to provide** Directed services (Advanced, National Enhanced and Enhanced Services)* face-to-face with patients **at the pharmacy premises** from **1 October 2025**.

Enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines – consultation

The Department for Health and Social Care and NHS England have launched a consultation seeking views on proposals to enable pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines. Proposals include amending the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to increase pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines by enabling pharmacists working in a community pharmacy to supply a different strength or formulation of the same medicine originally prescribed, in certain circumstances. **Read more and give your views**.

Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Paper prescription sorting and submission process.

As part of our **Funding & Reimbursement Shorts** series, Community Pharmacy England's in-house Drug Tariff and funding experts have created a new video on the **paper prescription sorting and submission process.**

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.