

For Action

Local News:

- Message from Community Pharmacy BLMK-N re Covid – 19 eligibility issues.
- Updated resources for Covid-19.
- FAO BLMK – Paid Pharmacy Research Opportunity.

Training & Events:

- CPPE East Midlands newsletter & **online** workshop “Optimising Infection Management” – **14 October 2025, 7pm – 9pm.**
- Pharmacy Technician Webinar – **20 October 12:00 – 1:30pm.**

National News/Reminders:

- 2025 **mandatory** workforce survey – **closing date Friday 21 November.**
- National Health Campaigns for 2025/26 announced.
- Reminder of services & Regulatory changes for October.
- Pharmacy technician development programme – **Application now open.**
- Foundation Trainee Pharmacist funding increase for 2025/26
- Your views required on **Enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines.**
- Invitation for Independent pharmacy owners to join CPE committee – **submission by 19 October.**

Local News

Message from Community Pharmacy BLMK-N- Re COVID – 19 eligibility issues.

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N is fully aware of the deeply concerning and completely unacceptable situation faced by our Covid – 19 vaccination pharmacies, since it started, due to patient confusion over eligibility, a failure of our national commissioners to adequately provide timely information to the public and a flawed National Booking System.

Our Chair has independently written a [letter to Community Pharmacy England](#) asking for an urgent review of COVID – 19 reimbursement. This letter has prompted all LPC’s in the East Region to lobby for rapid improvements in patient messaging, the booking system and also for financial recognition of the increased workload, wasted appointments and appalling treatment of pharmacy staff, which has occurred due to the above commissioning failures.

BLMK-N LPC emailed a [survey](#) on 3 October, to all contractors, to raise issues with RVOC (Regional Vaccination Operations Centre) and CPE (Community Pharmacy England) regarding non-eligible patients being able to book C-19 vaccination appointments via the National Booking System (NBS).

We all understand that patients may be upset and feel strongly about these national eligibility decisions and some/many may wish to make a formal complaint. We have been informed by our ICB's that the appropriate point of complaint for patients about vaccination eligibility and the confusion should be directed to:

Tel: 0300 303 5678 or email: enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

Recent update from CPE – [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme: Compensation for Pharmacy Owners – Community Pharmacy England](#).

[C-19 vac eligibility – Updated resources to help pharmacy teams.](#)

CPE have been working with NHS England to try to address this unacceptable situation and to get more NHS communications issued to help people understand whether they are eligible for the vaccine.

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N emailed the following posters to all pharmacies on 7 October:

- [NHS Staff Respect Poster](#)
- [Who should have the COVID-19 vaccine this winter \(Poster\)](#)
- [Information on immunosuppression and C-19 vaccination \(Poster\)](#)
- [The NHS has changed who can get a COVID-19 vaccine this winter \(Poster\)](#)
- [Which Flu Vaccine 2025-2026](#)

[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

CPPE East Midlands Autumn/Winter 2025 newsletter.

CPPE are running an **online** workshop “Optimising Infection Management” – on **14 October 2025, 7pm – 9pm**.

The event is available for booking on the CPPE website: [Book a workshop](#), booking reference: 62013.

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.

[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 21 November 2025**.

National health campaigns for 2025/26 – final details.

The final details for the campaigns have now been agreed with DHSC and NHS England.

All pharmacies will need to participate in both the campaigns, using relevant materials to promote the Pharmacy First service to the public.

The timings for the campaigns are:

- **Monday 20 October 2025 to Sunday 9 November 2025;** and
- **Monday 2 February 2026 to Sunday 22 February 2026.**

The first campaign will take place alongside an NHS England advertising campaign promoting Pharmacy First to the public.

The NHS England advertising campaign will, with some minor updates, be based on the creative content used in the last two national [Think Pharmacy First campaigns](#).

Updated digital materials that pharmacies can download and use to promote Pharmacy First will be made available on the [DHSC Campaign Resource Centre](#).

Reminder of Services and Regulatory changes from October.

- **ABPM bundling requirement delayed** – DHSC, NHS England and Community Pharmacy England have agreed that the requirement to provide one Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) consultation per month as part of the 'bundling' requirements to achieve a Pharmacy First fixed monthly payment will **not go ahead** from **1 October 2025** as originally planned.
- **Updated clinical pathways, protocol and PGDs for Pharmacy First** – NHS England has **published on their website the final updated clinical pathways, protocol and PGDs**, as well as an updated master PGD authorisation sheet, which pharmacists can choose to sign instead of having to sign each individual PGD.
- **Changes to the Pharmacy Contraception Service – Wednesday 29 October 2025**, has been set as the provisional date that the PCS will expand to include the provision of oral emergency contraception (EC), (However, NHS England will confirm this nearer that date, via their **Primary Care Bulletin**). In addition, the service will be updated to allow **pharmacy technicians** to provide the service from that day. CPE have provided a **briefing document** that provides guidance for community pharmacy owners and their teams. Please note, if you are signed up for PCS **you have to offer all 3 parts of the service** i.e. initiation, ongoing supply, and EC. If you are not able to offer all three parts, you should have already de-registered from the service via your MYS by 29 September 2025 (Further information on de-registering from the service can be found at **cpe.org.uk/PCS**). As a result of the changes to the PCS service do not forget to update your SOPs and please ensure you have documented evidence of staff competency to offer the service.
- **Directed Services can no longer be provided at distance selling premises (DSP) pharmacies** – DSP pharmacies can no longer provide Directed services (Advanced, National Enhanced and Enhanced Services)* face-to-face with the patient **at the pharmacy premises**.
- **Hub and Spoke dispensing NHS terms of Service** – New hub and spoke dispensing **regulations** come into force, as do the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMRs) **hub and spoke changes** announced in April this year.
- **Additional regulatory changes** including:
 - The removal of the requirement to produce a practice leaflet for all pharmacies; and
 - The removal of the requirement to obtain references for all staff involved in the provision of NHS services.
- **NMS subcontracting will no longer be permitted** – Changes **will** be made to the New Medicine Service (NMS) Service Directions to clarify that NMS may not be provided via a remote consultation with the patient by a pharmacist working off the pharmacy premises who is not employed by the pharmacy owner. The changes to the Directions are expected to be made **later this month**.

Pharmacy technician development programme – Applications now open.

Applications are now open for a fully funded development programme to support pharmacy technicians to develop their skills to deliver a wider range of services. The programme will be delivered between **October 2025** and **March 2026**.

2025/26 Foundation Trainee Pharmacist funding increase.

Funding for sites hosting Foundation Trainee Pharmacists in the 2025/26 training year has been increased to £27,295 per trainee.

Reminder: Prescription Item Reports: Your monthly breakdown of NHS payments.

Pharmacy owners can download a Prescription Item Report (PIR) each month via the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) [Information Services Portal \(ISP\)](#).

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. [Respond online with your views.](#)

Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) – full survey

The full CPAF survey monitoring pharmacy contractors' compliance in 2024/25 is available now to complete until **midnight on 31 October 2025**.

Contractors will be contacted directly by the NHS Business Services Authority if their pharmacy has been selected. Completion is a mandatory requirement for all selected contractors, and the results will form the basis for which pharmacies will be considered for a visit. Users of the NHSBSA's [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) will be able to complete the survey via their MYS login.

Invitation to independent pharmacy owners to join Community Pharmacy England (CPE) committee.

Independent pharmacy owners are being invited to express interest in joining our committee. One additional place has been created for the category of pharmacy owners operating between one and nine pharmacy premises.

[The Expression of Interest form](#) and full information can be found on the CPE website. The form will need to be submitted by **Sunday 19 October 2025**.

Changes to Advance payments for pharmacies that consistently over-declare items on FP34C.

NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has identified a very small number of pharmacies that are declaring consistently and significantly above their actual number of prescription items dispensed each month when submitting their FP34C declaration via the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal.

Emollients: risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients.

This news story is to remind pharmacy owner and their teams **about the risks and the advice** provided by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), in partnership with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), charities and organisations from across health and social care.

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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