Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 27 October 2025

For Action

Local News:

- FAO Beds/MK – Short survey on chlamydia testing and treatment.
- FAO BLMK – Reminder - **Health Promotion Campaigns**.
  Hypertension evaluation to be submitted between **31 October – 15 November 2025**.
  Smoking evaluation to be submitted between **31 November – 15 December 2025**.
- FAO BLMK – Reminder - MiDoS Access for BLMK community pharmacies.
- Follow us on **LinkedIn** for key updates and stay connected

Training & Events:

- Community Pharmacy England webinar "Hub & Spoke" update- **20 October, 7pm**

National News/Reminders:

- National Health Campaign – **20 October – 9 November 2025**.
- Expansion of PCS – date confirmed as **29 October 2025**.
- 2025 **mandatory** workforce survey – **closing date Friday 21 November**.
- Your views required on **Enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines**.

Local News

FAO Beds/MK – **Short survey on Chlamydia testing and treatment.**
Public Health is a joint service working across Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes City, and they are seeking your insights to better understand the barriers and opportunities around offering chlamydia testing and treatment in community pharmacy settings.

Your feedback will help to shape future support, training, and service design to ensure pharmacies are equipped to play a vital role in sexual health promotion. Please take 5 minutes to complete the **survey**.

Reminder 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**

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 and submit via the following MS Forms link:

- **Hypertension Campaign Evaluation** between **31 October – 15 November 2025**.
- **Stop Smoking Campaign Evaluation** between **31 November – 15 December 2025**.

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.

Reminder 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.

MiDoS can be accessed via the relevant links below:

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

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.

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.

Calling all Pharmacy Contractors - Stay Connected with BLMK-Northants on LinkedIn!

Stay informed with the latest updates, key deadlines and training opportunities across Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, and Northamptonshire? Follow the **BLMK-Northants LinkedIn page – your central source for local pharmacy information** to stay informed and inspired. Whether you are managing a busy dispensary or leading a pharmacy team, our page keeps you informed and connected with everything you need to delivery outstanding care.

Don't miss out on essential announcements, CPD resources, and collaborative initiatives across Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, and Northamptonshire. **Follow us today!**

Training & Events

Webinar: Hub and spoke update.

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) will be holding a webinar about the new hub and spoke dispensing regulations on **Wednesday 29 October at 7pm**.

During the webinar, Gorden Hockey, Director, Legal at CPE will brief pharmacy owners on the regulatory changes and outline what they mean in practice. **Book your place now**.

National News/Reminders

First national health campaign.

The first 2025/26 national health campaign started on **Monday 20 October** and will run until **Sunday 9 November**. All pharmacies will need to participate in the campaign, using relevant materials to promote the Pharmacy First service to the public.

Expansion of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service – updated service specification and patient group directions.

In anticipation of the expansion of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service to include emergency contraception, the updated service specification and patient group directions (PGDs) **will be published on NHS England's website** on **Monday 20 October 2025**. This will allow community pharmacy teams to prepare for the service expansion, including the delivery of PGDs by pharmacy technicians.

NHS England has confirmed in an email sent today (27th October 2025) to all pharmacies in England that the expansion of the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) will go live on Wednesday this week (29th October), as had originally been planned.

The planned changes to the New Medicine Service (NMS) will also take place, as planned, on that day. **Read more about NMS and PCS expansion on CPE website.**

Have you completed the 2025 mandatory workforce survey?

Pharmacy owners are reminded of the requirement to complete the 2025 workforce survey, which is a **mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners**.
The survey will **close at 11.59pm** on **Friday 21 November 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. **Respond online with your views** by **11:59pm 11 December 2025**.

Sector Poll: Tell CPE about winter readiness and C-19 vac issues.

Community pharmacy owners are being asked to share their views and concerns as we head into winter, as well as any further feedback they have, before the next full Community Pharmacy England Committee meeting taking place in November.

LFD service: Are you providing it?

As winter approaches and cases of COVID-19 increase, pharmacy owners may want to consider provision and promotion of the COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) service.

NHSmail is becoming NHS.net Connect – what pharmacy teams need to know.

A new name and look are coming to NHSmail. The NHSmail programme is being rebranded to NHS.net Connect. This change introduces a refreshed look and some new features, but if you use it, your existing NHS.net email address, login details and helpdesk support will stay the same.

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.

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