Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 10 November 2025

For Action

Local News:

- FAO Northamptonshire – **Health Promotion Campaigns** from **10 November 2025**.
- FAO BLMK – Claiming Broken Bulk.
- FAO BLMK – Reminder - **Health Promotion Campaigns** deadlines.
- FAO BMK – Reminder – Short survey on chlamydia testing & treatment.
- Connect with us on LinkedIn

Training & Events:

- CPPE newsletter with key dates.

National News/Reminders:

- Winter readiness feedback to CPE – **Closes 11:59pm 10 November**.
- Community pharmacy services expanded.
- 2025 **mandatory** workforce survey – **closing date Friday 21 November**.
- PQS training requirements.

Local News

FAO Northamptonshire – Health Promotion Campaign.

NHS Northamptonshire ICB has chosen **Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness (AMR)** as the first local health campaign this year. All Northamptonshire contractors should have received an email, from the ICB, to their NHS email account on **6 November 2025**. The email includes all instructions, resources, and the reporting form link you'll need to complete the campaign requirements.

Campaign dates: 10 November – 7 December 2025 (minimum campaign duration: one week)
(Ideal timing: 18 – 24 November during World AMR Awareness Week)
Full information on the campaign can be found on the **BLMK-N website**.
All community pharmacies are required to participate in this campaign as part of the **contractual framework**.

FAO BLMK– re **Claiming Broken Bulk.**

Please see below message from Fiona Garnett (Associate Director Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation):
We have had a couple of situations where Midazolam oromucosal solution pre-filled oral syringes sugar free has been prescribed, it is Buccolam and comes in a pack of 4.

2 were prescribed and the pharmacy should have supplied 2 and claimed broken bulk, however they insisted that the script was redone to specify 4 and they give the whole pack. This isn't always clinically appropriate, it is a controlled drug, and prescribers may only want 1 or 2 to be supplied at a time.

Please note, this has already happened in 2 pharmacies in Luton and has created problems for the epilepsy nurses.

Reminder BLMK – **Health Promotion Campaign** - Submit your data for BLMK ICB – led, Health Campaigns, by **15 November 2025**.
Both campaigns are now concluding by the end of October, and we are now entering the final phase:
What You Need to Do:
•Submit your campaign data by: **Friday 15 November 2025**
•**Hypertension Campaign Form**: **Post-Campaign Evaluation Form – Hypertension Awareness** – Fill out form
•**Smoking Cessation Campaign Form**: **Pharmacy Team Evaluation – Stop Smoking Campaign** – Fill out form
•**Optiona**l: Share Patient Impact or Stories

These submissions are part of your contractual requirement under the CPCF and will help the ICB evaluate impact, share successes, and plan future ICB-led health promotion activity.

Reminder - 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**.

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

Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework update – Webinar – 18 November 7-8pm.
NHS England will be hosting a webinar at **7 - 8pm on 18 November** to update on progress of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework: 2025 - 2026**.** The webinar will provide service specific information on the Pharmacy Contraception Service and the New Medicine Service expansions and will share findings from the Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme. Pharmacy contractors, pharmacists and other pharmacy colleagues are invited to join this event. Book your place via the NHS England website.

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week – 18–24 November
This year's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week (18–24 November) highlights the urgent need to act and use antibiotics responsibly. Join free, expert-led webinars to deepen your understanding, learn more about best practice, and gain practical strategies to combat AMR in your work.

Registration is now open for Inclusive Pharmacy Practice Week 2025
From **24-27 November**, all pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and wider pharmacy team members are invited to join a series of free online workshops. Co-produced by 16 national pharmacy partners, sessions will focus on building more diverse leadership in pharmacy, improving patient experiences and reducing health inequalities. Register via the CPPE website.

GPhC consultation on standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians
The General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) consultation on standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians (IETPT) is open until **24 December 2025**. It seeks to gather views on proposed draft standards which bring about changes to pharmacy technician initial education and training, such as the level of study, entry requirements, educational supervision requirements, and the learning outcomes. Find out more on the GPhC's website.

FAO Northamptonshire – November 2025 Tablet Press.
The prescribing newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacy teams from Northamptonshire ICB.

FAO BLMK – October 2025 Care Homes Newsletter.

CPPE Update - November 2025 – East of England Team.
Key Highlights include:

- Online workshop dates for events running from January- March 2026 now live.
- NMS and PCS pages updated to reflect the recent CPCF changes re addition of depression and Emergency contraception.
- launch of new programme supporting Pharmacy technicians called 2Pharmacy technician development programme: preparing for the future" - open to all sectors of pharmacy
- Weight management workshops –

- **Bedfordshire** on 10 February 2026 7pm - 9pm - Mitchell Hall, Cranfield University, MK43
- **Northampton** on 3 March 2026 7pm – 9 pm - Collingtree Golf Club, Northampton, NN4 0XN

National News/Reminders

Closing - 10 November 11:59pm - 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.

Community pharmacy services expanded
From the end of October two community pharmacy clinical services have been expanded as part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2025/26**.**
Community pharmacies can provide the emergency contraceptive pill (oral emergency contraception) free of charge as part of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service and the NHS New Medicine Service (NMS) has been expanded to include medicines for depression.
Further information for the expanded NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service, including updated service specification and patient group directions is available.

The NMS Eligible Drug List and NMS service specification have also been updated.
To support effective delivery of the service for depression, pharmacists should review the range of further learning and reference resources detailed in the cascade, and the CPPE online training module 'consulting with people with mental health problems' which has been included as a requirement in the 2025/26 Pharmacy Quality Scheme.
Further training information is available on the BLMK-N website.

Hub and spoke dispensing – schedules 1 to 3 controlled drugs.
Community pharmacy contractors and pharmacy commissioners should note that schedules 1 to 3 controlled drugs must not be assembled or dispensed through hub/spoke arrangements between two different legal entity dispensing businesses as this would not comply with the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. All types of orders for these schedules of controlled drugs therefore must be assembled and dispensed at the spoke pharmacy/dispensing doctor site. More information on hub and spoke arrangements.

Reminder: Covid walk-in information is rolled over from Autumn/Winter 24/25 if not validated.
A reminder to all pharmacy colleagues who offer the Covid vaccination programme, that walk-in availability and times on the Covid walk-in finder are rolled over from the previous season if not updated/validated on profile manager**.** If you have not updated or validated your information

this season, then there is a risk that a member of the public may be incorrectly guided to your pharmacy for a vaccination.
Instructions are within the **AW25/26 site campaign guide** or for support, contact **nhswebsite.servicedesk@nhs.net**.

Changes to Advance payments for pharmacies that consistently over-declare items on FP34C.
In line with the Government's obligations under **Managing Public Money**, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has introduced a change from this month. Pharmacy owners who persistently over-declare will no longer receive advance payments based on their declarations. DHSC has confirmed to us that only a very small number of pharmacy owners are expected to be affected by this change.

Retrospective reimbursement prices for January, August and October 2025.
Following representations made by Community Pharmacy England on behalf of community pharmacy owners, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has **redetermined January, August and October 2025 reimbursement prices**.

Reminder - 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**.

Reminder - 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.
Respond online with your views by **11:59pm 11 December 2025**.

Reminder - Please ask your patients to give feedback on Pharmacy First.
Last year CPE and Healthwatch England launched an online Pharmacy First patient survey that pharmacy owners can direct patients to after receiving the service.
The aim of this collaboration is to collect patient feedback on the service to help inform service improvements and to help to quantify the value of the service to the public.

Reminder – PQS – Training Requirements.
Pharmacy owners and pharmacy team members should note that there is a requirement in the 2025/26 Scheme that may mean that staff are required to repeat training and e-assessments that they have completed previously, depending on the stated validity period and when staff completed the training and e-assessments. The table in our **Summary of the training requirements for the PQS 2025/26** resource details the validity periods and the dates in which the training and e-assessments must have been completed within.

LFD service myth busting series (#4)
This is the fourth of a series of articles to tackle some of the misconceptions around the **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) service**. The articles will cover a variety of aspects of the LFD service and aims to myth bust, to increase understanding of the service.

NHSBSA 'Hints & Tips' – Issue 61.
The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) produces a quarterly newsletter called "Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors".

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.