

This issue covers:

Local News:

- Reminder – Discharge Medicine Service (DMS).
- GP Engagement Toolkit.
- FAO Luton & Beds – HUC referral – Healthcare professional line.
- Bank Holidays.
- Reminder – FAO Luton – Short survey on chlamydia.

Training & Events:

- Supporting access to vaccination and screening webinar – **1:30 – 3pm 16/12/25.**
- GPhC consultation on standards for the initial education and training on Pharmacy Technicians – **closes 24/12/2025.**
- Fully and partially funded leadership programmes – **closes 11/01/2026.**
- CPPE Pharmacy Technician impact groups.

National News/Reminders:

- Use of FS endorsement extended to Tuberculosis treatments.
- Medicine shortages leaflets and posters.
- Enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines consultation – **closes 11:59pm 11/12/25.**

Local News

Reminder – Discharge Medicines Service (DMS).

The Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) became a new **Essential service** within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) on 15 February 2021 and is a service which all **pharmacy owners have to provide.**

Contractors need to ensure relevant staff, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, who will be involved in providing the service, have the necessary knowledge and competence to undertake DMS safely.

Ensure you have updated all relevant staff on the new **streamlined process** for making claims for the DMS, which went live from **6 July 2025.**

Look out for a new LPC resource – GP Engagement Toolkit – arriving with you shortly.

The LPC has sent a GP Engagement Toolkit to every pharmacy across BLMK–N.

This is a brand–new support pack to help teams build stronger working relationships with local GP practices.

Each pack includes practical, ready–to–use materials – please take a moment to explore it when it arrives.

FAO Luton & Bedfordshire – HUC re NHS 111 and Pharmacy First.

If you receive a patient referral from 111 and the patient needs to be referred back to them, where appropriate, pharmacists should utilise the **healthcare professional line** rather than advising patients to call 111 themselves, this will ensure the patient is dealt with as efficiently as possible.

This line is accessed by **calling 111 and selecting option 3**, whereby they will arrange for a healthcare professional to callback.

Bank Holidays.

Community pharmacy contractors are reminded of the Terms of Service requirement to ensure they verify and, where necessary, update the information contained in their NHS and DoS Profile

Happy Elf Day 2025.

Maht Patel and the Stopsley Pharmacy team brought festive cheer to Elf Day, on the 3 December, dressing up to raise awareness for the Alzheimer’s Society. Their efforts shine a light on the importance of supporting those affected by dementia while spreading joy and support in the community. Well done Stopsley Pharmacy team!

Reminder – FAO Luton – Short survey on Chlamydia testing.

Luton Council's Public Health Team are seeking your insights to better understand the barriers and opportunities for offering chlamydia testing in community pharmacy settings.

Your feedback will help shape future support, training, and service design to ensure pharmacies are equipped to play a vital role in sexual health promotion. All responses will be stored securely and used solely for the purpose of understanding barriers to chlamydia testing in community pharmacies.

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 us today!**

Training & Events

Supporting Access to vaccination and screening webinar

A [Make Every Contact Count \(MECC\) webinar](#) at 1.30 – 3pm on 16 December, showcases examples of how local teams across the NHS, local authorities, and the voluntary and community sector are applying MECC principles to rebuild trust and confidence and address inequalities. It is aimed at commissioners and providers involved in planning, promoting, and delivering vaccination and screening programmes.

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](#).

Opportunities for primary care colleagues to join fully and partially funded leadership programmes.

All primary care staff, including general practice, **community pharmacy**, dentistry and optometry can now register interest for the fully funded [Mary Seacole](#) and [Rosalind Franklin \(CMI\)](#) leadership programmes, and the partially funded Elizabeth Garrett Anderson programme. Places are limited, so early registration is encouraged. The deadline is **Sunday, 11 January 2026**. Details on cohort dates and application process will follow. Start conversations with your line manager and [register your interest](#).

CPPE – Pharmacy Technician Impact Groups.

The Pharmacy Technician Impact Groups provide small, fully funded peer learning groups supported by expert CPPE facilitators and open to all sectors of practice providing an action learning approach to develop real-world confidence and develop a professional support network. These sessions also complement the recently launched [Pharmacy technician development programme: preparing for the future : CPPE](#).

CPPE launches Digital healthcare learning gateway.

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a [Digital healthcare learning gateway](#), designed to help pharmacy teams build the confidence and skills needed for today's rapidly evolving digital NHS.

National News/Reminders

Use of 'FS' endorsement extended to Tuberculosis (TB) treatments.

From 1 December 2025, use of the 'FS' prescriber endorsement has been extended to treatments used in the management of tuberculosis (TB) and latent TB infections, including the effects of TB and the adverse effects from TB treatment. Pharmacy teams should ensure that no prescription charge is levied for any items endorsed 'FS' by the prescriber.

DHSC publishes medicines shortages leaflets and posters.

As part of ongoing work and plans to improve the management of medicines supply issues, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England have published leaflets and posters for patients, community pharmacies and general practices about what to do when faced with medicine supply issues.

Price Concessions.

When community pharmacies cannot source a drug at or below the reimbursement price as set out in the Drug Tariff, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) can introduce a price concession at the request of Community Pharmacy England. A price concession can be requested for any drugs listed in Part VIIIA, Part VIIIB and Part VIIID of the Drug Tariff. For any drugs granted price concessions, contractors are automatically reimbursed at the new prices for that month.

A pharmacist cannot refuse to dispense a drug based solely on the fact that they had to buy it for a price higher than the Drug Tariff price. This is against a pharmacy's NHS terms of service to refuse dispensing on cost grounds. Instead, the pharmacist should try to source the drug from different wholesalers and, if it remains unavailable at or below the tariff price, report the issue through the appropriate channels for a potential [price concession](#) to be set for that month.

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) Analysis of Budget.

Community Pharmacy England has undertaken analysis to quantify the impact on community pharmacies.

Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Disallowed items.

As part of CPE's [Funding & Reimbursement Shorts](#) series, Community Pharmacy England's in-house Drug Tariff and funding experts have created a new video on **disallowed items**.

Reminder – Respecting Patient Choice for Pharmacy EPS Nominations.

In recent months, CPE has received a number of concerns about EPS pharmacy nominations and re-nominations without patient consent and wishes to remind pharmacy owners of the relevant Terms of Service requirements and the importance of patient choice of nominated pharmacy.

Reminder – NHSmail becoming NHS.net Connect: New Launchpad homepage coming soon.

The NHSmail programme is being rebranded to NHS.net Connect. This change, [announced previously](#), introduces a refreshed look and new features. Your existing NHS.net email address, login details, and helpdesk support will remain the same.

Closes soon – 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.

**From the entire BLMK–N LPC team and committee, we send our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy
2026 🎄**

The next edition of our newsletter will be shared w/c 5 January 2026

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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