Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 5 January 2026

This issue covers:

Local News:

- FAO BLMK – Medicines Management process for an outbreak of scabies in a care home or residential setting.
- Reminder - GP Engagement Toolkit.

Training & Events:

- PQS online drop-in sessions – **14/1/2026 & 27/1/26 1-2pm**.
- Fully and partially funded leadership programmes – **closes 11/01/26.**
- Media training offer – **26/1/26 & 10/2/26 7:30 – 9pm**.

National News/Reminders:

- C-19 & Adult Flu vac service spec published – **must register for Spring C-19 campaign by 2/2/26**.
- Call for feedback – Help shape future C-19 & LAIV vac centralised supplies – **closes 4pm 8/1/2026**.
- CPE Sector Poll –Patient abuse and other challenges – **closes 11:59pm 22/1/26**.
- Pharmacy supervision legislation to come into force in 2026.
- Updated SCS service spec & PGDs published.
- Advanced payment timetable for 2026.

Local News

FAO BLMK – Medicines Management process for an outbreak of scabies in a care home or residential setting.

Guidance produced to support care homes, PCNs/GP Practices and community pharmacies with the medicines management process following an outbreak of scabies. It includes information on bulk prescribing, and particularly the bulk prescribing of Permethrin 5% cream for treating an outbreak.

Reminder - New resource - GP Engagement Toolkit.

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N 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.

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

NEW – **PQS online drop-in sessions.**
At Community Pharmacy BLMK-N we understand the pressure you are under; however, we want to make sure that you do not lose out on income available to you. If you are not sure how to comply, we are here to help you.

We will be hosting some drop-in sessions for you and your teams to help achieve the PQS domains and earn the income available.

The sessions will be open for 1 hour on each day, drop in for as long or as short as you like.

- **Wednesday 14 January 1-2pm**
- **Tuesday 27 January 1-2pm**

Shape the new pilot training pathway for Early Career Pharmacist prescribers 2026-27.
From 2026, NHS England will pilot a new education and training pathway for newly qualified Early Career Pharmacist prescribers and are inviting employers, supervisors, learners, Higher Education Institutions and other partners to be part of this exciting journey.
The aim is to meet the needs of early career pharmacists and employers, enabling the delivery of high-quality care to patients. Participation will help shape an equitable pathway aligned with service priorities. To register interest and join the conversation, please complete **the form** by **Friday 8 January 2026**.

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**.

Media training offer: Become an ambassador for community pharmacy.
Training on giving media interviews and handling the press is being offered to pharmacy owners, team members and LPCs. If you're interested in becoming an ambassador for community pharmacy and giving effective interviews to the press, save your space on one of the following sessions:

- Monday 26 January 2026, 7.30pm-9pm – online
- Tuesday 10 February 2026, 7.30pm-9pm – online

Teach and Treat 2025-26 - driving pharmacy transformation.
This year's Teach and Treat programme tackles workforce challenges directly, delivering supervised, hands-on clinical training for community pharmacists aligned with local service needs. By supporting independent prescriber training and building a sustainable supervisor pipeline, Teach and Treat equips community pharmacists with the skills and confidence to deliver safe, effective patient care. These developments expand clinical role potential, improve patient access, and ease NHS pressures—key steps in transforming community pharmacy for the future. Further details are available **on NHS England's website.**

Early career pharmacist supervisor resource library.
The early career pharmacist supervisor resource library is now live.
Visit the new **Futures page** to find out more. The curated library has been developed to support supervisors of newly qualified pharmacists under both the previous and current learning outcomes as well as those early in their career. It offers a flexible collection of short courses, training materials and practical tools to help supervisors provide high-quality support aligned with current education and training standards.

2026 Regional roadshows to visit every region of England.
As part of their ongoing commitment to speak directly with pharmacy owners and LPCs, Community Pharmacy England will be holding a series of regional roadshow events across the country in 2026.

National News/Reminders

C-19 & Adult Flu vac: joint 2026/27 service spec published, with fee uplifts from April 2026.
Following discussions with Community Pharmacy England, NHS England has published **a new service specification** that covers the provision of both seasonal vaccination services (COVID-19 and adult flu) in community pharmacy for the 2026/27 season.

From **1 April 2026**, the COVID-19 Vaccination Service will become an Advanced service. The new service specification will allow pharmacy owners to either offer COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccinations together or just offer adult flu vaccinations.

Summary:
- New joint service specification for COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations published.
- COVID-19 vaccinations become an Advanced service.
- **Fees for both vaccinations uplifted, but additional fee for housebound patients removed**.

- Pharmacy owners **must use the National Booking Service (NBS) for COVID-19 vaccinations**, but this is still not a requirement for flu.
- **Registration for spring COVID-19 campaign opens from 5 January**, and pharmacy owners **must register by 2 February 2026** to guarantee supplies in time for the start of the spring season.

Flu payments change: Be aware of potential cashflow implications.
Pharmacy owners are being reminded that **recent changes to speed up payment of flu vaccination provision** means their end of December payment may be lower than expected, having already been paid in November.

Call for feedback – Help shape future C-19 & LAIV vac centralised supplies.
NHS England is seeking feedback from pharmacy owners to help shape the supply of COVID-19 vaccines and live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) nasal spray for two and three-year-olds in future campaigns.
The survey takes 10 minutes or less to complete and is available until **4pm** on **Thursday 8 January 2026**.

Extended FP34C submission deadline for prescriptions dispensed in December 2025.
With New Year's Day (1 January 2026) occurring in the first five days of the FP34C submission window, pharmacy owners will have an extra day, until the end of **6 January 2026**, to submit their December FP34Cs using the **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal** and to dispatch their prescription bundle to the relevant pricing division at the NHSBSA.

Sector Poll: Tell us about patient abuse and other challenges.
Community pharmacy owners are being asked to share their experiences of patient abuse towards them and their teams, and other challenges, as the Community Pharmacy England (CPE) Committee prepares for its first meeting of 2026.

More than half of pharmacy staff reported that abuse from patients is a serious concern in the **2025 Pharmacy Pressures Survey** – and with further reports now received from LPCs, CPE want to get an accurate updated picture.

The survey will close at **11.59pm on Thursday 22January** to allow time for the Committee to review responses before its meeting. **Please note, this survey is for community pharmacy owners only – CCA multiple branches do not need to respond, as their head offices will be contacted separately.**

To support pharmacy owners and their teams Community Pharmacy England has issued an article which points to supportive information and resources: **Curbing patient abuse**.

Pharmacy supervision legislation to come into force in 2026.
The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that **The Human Medicines (Authorisation by Pharmacists and Supervision by Pharmacy Technicians) Order 2025** has been approved by Parliament and the Privy Council, and will come into force in two stages.

- **7 January 2026** - Pharmacists can authorise pharmacy teams to hand out checked and bagged prescriptions (Human Medicines Regulation 2012, Regulation 220B)
- **10 December 2026** - Pharmacists can authorise pharmacy technicians to undertake or supervise the preparation, assembly, dispensing and sale and supply of medicines, that would otherwise need to be performed by or under the supervision of a pharmacist (Medicines Act 1968, Section 10 and 10A and Human Medicines Regulations 2012, Regulation 220A)

The Order allows a **one-year transition period** for the authorisation of pharmacy technicians to undertake or supervise the preparation, assembly, dispensing and sale/supply. This is to allow time for the **GPhC** and the **RPS** to develop and publish supporting professional standards and guidance.

Updated SCS service spec and PGDs published ahead of changes to the service.
In the **2024/25 and 2025/26 CPCF funding settlement**, it was agreed that changes would be made to the Smoking Cessation Service (SCS) to allow suitably trained and competent staff to provide the service, alongside pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, who are currently able to undertake consultations.

Community Pharmacy England have been working with NHS England and DHSC on these documents and draft versions have now been published on the **NHSBSA website**.

Advance payment timetable for 2026.
Pharmacy owners should note that the next advance payment will be received on the **12 January 2026** (for activity completed in December 2025 and declared using the FP34C form on the **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal** by the **6 January 2026**).

Hub and Spoke: What you need to know.
Following the introduction of hub and spoke dispensing between different legal entities this autumn, Community Pharmacy England's Regulations Team reminds pharmacy owners of the guidance available to help them decide whether it's appropriate for their pharmacy business.

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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