

This issue covers:

Local News:

- Emergency Contraception dosing & charging.
- Discharge Medicine Service – PharmOutcomes training video for staff.
- GP Engagement Toolkit now available online.

Training & Events:

- PQS online drop-in sessions – **27/1/26 1-2pm.**
- Seasonal Vaccination webinar – **27/1/26 7:30pm.**
- Media training offer – **26/1/26 & 10/2/26 7:30 – 9pm.**
- Data Security & Protection Toolkit 2026 workshop – **11/2/26 7:30pm.**

National News/Reminders:

- C-19 & Adult Flu vac service spec published – **must register for Spring C-19 campaign by 2/2/26.**
- National Pharmacy First Campaign – **from 2/2/26 – 22/2/26.**
- PQS AMS Pharmacy First audit – **until 3/2/26 to start.**
- CPE Sector Poll –Patient abuse and other challenges – **closes 11:59pm 22/1/26.**
- Drug tariff category H announcement.
- Dispensing factsheet – end of month prescription & FP34C submission process.

Local News

Emergency Contraception (EC) – quick reminder (PGD dosing + charging)

Following a patient incident in a pharmacy, the sexual health team, have asked us to remind all pharmacies to ensure EC supplies are provided in line with the PGD and service requirements:

- EC supplied under the commissioned EC service is free to eligible patients – please do not charge for EC where the service criteria is met.
- Levonorgestrel (LNG-EC) dosing (PGD): standard dose is 1.5mg (1 tablet) ASAP up to 96 hours after UPSI.
- When 3mg may be offered/advised (2 × 1.5mg tablets taken together as a single dose, within 96 hours):
 - BMI > 26 kg/m² or weight > 70kg, or
 - Use of enzyme-inducing medicines/herbal products (or within 4 weeks of stopping).

Please ensure you are working to the current EC PGD and any local service specification.

[Discharge Medicines Service \(DMS\).](#)

The Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) became an 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. For pharmacies that use PharmOutcomes, there is a [short training video](#) for community pharmacy teams who will be receiving and managing DMS referrals.

After attending meetings with our local ICB teams, we know that currently £55k is currently sitting in unclaimed DMS and is in the region of 60% income being lost!

From **6 July 2025**, there is a new shortened claim journey available for you to read on the [CPE website under FAQ](#), please ensure that you are actioning and claiming them.

[GP Engagement Toolkit now available online.](#)

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N has shared the GP Engagement Toolkit with every pharmacy across BLMK-N, and it's now also available on our website.

We are also publishing "Surgery Newsflash" updates alongside the toolkit, as outlined in the pack. Please find below the latest Newsflash on [contraception](#), as a topic for you to use with your local surgery team.

[Training & Events](#)

Reminder – [PQS online drop-in sessions.](#)

To help you and your teams achieve the PQS domains and earn the income available, Community Pharmacy BLMK-N next PQS drop-in session will be on:

- [Tuesday 27 January 1-2pm](#)

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

[Seasonal Vaccination Service 2026/27 – webinar.](#)

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar in collaboration with NHS England about the new Seasonal Vaccination Service on **Wednesday 21 January at 7.30pm**. The new Advanced service covers the provision of both seasonal vaccinations (COVID-19 and adult flu) in community pharmacy for the 2026/27 season. [Book your place now.](#)

Reminder – [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](#)

[Stress management and building resilience workshop – facilitated by Pharmacist Support.](#)

Alongside critical work making the financial case for the sector, Community Pharmacy England will be working with [Pharmacist Support](#) in 2026 to help support the wellbeing of pharmacists and their teams.

- [Thursday 26th February 2026, 7.15pm – 9pm – Online](#)

This workshop explores wellbeing and looks at how to build resilience. It provides techniques for dealing with feelings of pressure including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and encourages participants to identify and build on strengths.

[Register for CPE Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2026 Workshop.](#)

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar **on Wednesday 11 February at 7:30pm** to help community pharmacy owners complete the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit \(DSPTK\) 2026](#).

Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework progress: watch the webinar recording

In case you missed it, NHS England's webinar on the progress of [the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework: 2025 – 2026](#) for pharmacy contractors, pharmacists and other pharmacy colleagues is **still available to watch**. The webinar included updates on the Pharmacy Contraception Service and the New Medicine Service expansions, and the Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme.

[National News/Reminders](#)

[C-19 & Adult Flu vac: joint 2026/27 service spec published, with fee uplifts from April 2026.](#)

Following discussions with CPE, 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.

Registration for spring COVID-19 campaign – pharmacy owners **must register by 2 February 2026** [using this form](#) to guarantee supplies in time for the start of the spring season.

Reminder – The COVID-19 winter vaccination campaign ends on **Saturday 31 January 2026**.

If your site is not offering a year-round COVID19 vaccination, your ordering schedule is:

- **Tuesday 27 January** – last date to raise exception orders
- **Friday 30 January** – last date for vaccine deliveries

National Pharmacy First Campaign.

As part of the [Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework \(CPCF\) 2025/26](#) pharmacy contractors are required to take part in two national health campaigns promoting the Pharmacy First service to the public.

The second campaign runs from **2 – 22 February 2026**. Contractors can meet the requirements of the campaign through any of the following activities:

- displaying posters, leaflets or other promotional materials at the pharmacy.
- information on your pharmacy's website.
- information posted your pharmacy's social media channels; and
- including information in emails or SMS sent to patients.

Updated digital materials are available for use on the [DHSC Campaign Resource Centre](#).

To coincide with the National Pharmacy First campaign, NHS Northamptonshire ICB and Community Pharmacy BLMK-N, have worked together to deliver additional local advertising to help boost awareness.

Roadside advertising promoting Pharmacy First is already on display across Northampton and surrounding areas, and nearby pharmacies may notice an increase in walk-in patients requesting the service. More information can be found on [Community Pharmacy BLMK-N website](#).

PQS: Have you started your AMS Pharmacy First audit?

Pharmacy owners have until **3 February 2026** to start the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Antimicrobial Stewardship – Pharmacy First consultations – Clinical Audit.

A reminder that data collection and action plans are available on the [CPE website](#).

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has [published the PQS declaration questions](#) which will be included in the 2025/26 PQS declaration so pharmacy owners can view these ahead of making their declaration when the declaration window opens.

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.

The survey will close at **11.59pm on Thursday 22 January** 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.**

Drug Tariff Category H announcement.

From **March 2026**, a new Category will be introduced to Part VIII A of the Drug Tariff as part of a series of drug reimbursement reforms previously proposed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

CPE is seeking clarification on a few points but aims to publish further details about Category H in the next few weeks, including FAQs to explain the changes and new category.

[Dispensing factsheet: end of month prescription and FP34C submission process.](#)

Pharmacy teams can now access CPE's newly updated factsheet, designed to support accurate and timely completion of end of month prescription bundles and FP34C submissions.

[Pharmacy First myth busting: To reject or not to reject?](#)

This article tackles some of the misconceptions around rejecting Pharmacy First referrals and aims to bust myths to increase understanding of the service.

[New NHS Healthy Choices Quiz.](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS have launched a new campaign encouraging all adults to take the new NHS Healthy Choices Quiz.

[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.](#)

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