

This issue covers:

Local News:

- FAO Luton & Beds – HUC Healthcare professional line.
- FAO BLMK – The ADHERE trial.

Training & Events:

- Spring C-19 vaccination webinars & FDP drop-in sessions.
- New CPPE empowering Pharmacy Technicians to provide services workshops.
- Royal College of Pharmacy – webinars for more inclusivity.
- Primary care cybersecurity webinars.
- CPE Category H & Data Security & Protection Toolkit workshops – now available on demand.

National News/Reminders:

- Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026 – open until **23:59 on 16/3/26**.
- Annual flu letter & Seasonal Vaccination Provider guide published.
- Changes to the reporting of Temporary Suspensions – from **1/6/26**.
- Pharmacy First: new briefing on urgent supply of medicines and Appliances.

Local News

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.

FAO BLMK – The ADHERE Trial.

The University of Bedfordshire are seeking 4 additional community pharmacies to participate in this important NHS supported research study on the ADHERE trial, using Automatic Medication Dispensers to improve medication adherence for adults aged 65+ with long term conditions. If you are interested in taking part in the trial, please contact Jodi Emma Wainwright Jodiemma.Wainwright@beds.ac.uk for more information.

Training & Events

Spring 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign: Training Webinars.

The Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination campaign introduces important changes to how vaccine is allocated, ordered and delivered. To help you prepare, NHS England is running a series of live training webinars.

Each session type covers the same content, so you only need to attend one session:

- [Tuesday 3 March 3:30pm – 4:30pm.](#)
- [Wednesday 4 March 10am – 11am.](#)

Weekly drop-in sessions will continue from April through May (and beyond if needed) to support any ongoing questions once the campaign is underway.

Before attending: Please log into Federated Data Platform (FDP) ahead of your training session so you can follow along with the demonstrations. [FDP drop-in sessions and further guidance are available.](#)

New CPPE Empowering pharmacy technicians to provide services workshop.

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a new workshop designed to equip pharmacy technicians with the competence and confidence to safely supply or administer medicines under Patient Group Directions (PGDs).

Proposals for a more inclusive Royal College of Pharmacy.

The UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board has published an [open letter](#) inviting pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, trainees, students and the wider pharmacy team to join a series of webinars to discuss its proposals for a more inclusive Royal College of Pharmacy.

Each webinar has a particular focus, but everyone is welcome to attend:

- [Tuesday 3 March, 7–8pm](#) – To focus on specialist professional groups across the UK
- [Wednesday 4 March, 1–2pm](#) – To focus on pharmacist and pharmacy technician students and trainees across the UK

Primary care cybersecurity webinars: repeat sessions running.

NHS England and City of London Police Cyber Griffin team are delivering a series of cybersecurity webinars for primary care. These webinars will share real-world intelligence on current cyber threats; offer simple, effective steps to protect organisations; help colleagues spot and respond to suspicious activity before it becomes a breach; and provide an opportunity to discuss how to address cyber actions on the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit](#).

Register to join:

- [Cyber Baseline](#) Part A: 2–3.30pm, 19 March
- [Cyber Baseline](#) Part B: 2–3.30pm, 14 April

Category H on-demand webinar.

CPE held a webinar on the new Part VIIIA Drug Tariff category, Category H, on Monday 16 February, this presentation was recorded and is now available to watch on-demand.

[Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2026 workshop now on-demand.](#)

Pharmacy owners can now watch a recording of Community Pharmacy England's recent online workshop to help with the completion of the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2026](#).

[National News/Reminders](#)

[Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026: Your responses help secure our future.](#)

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) has launched its fifth annual Pharmacy Pressures Survey and are keen to hear from all pharmacy owners and staff.

The survey is crucial for monitoring the health of the sector. Its findings provide clear evidence of the realities facing community pharmacy. We know that being asked for feedback every year can feel repetitive, but the enormous response we receive is invaluable: it captures what is needed to continue pushing for vital changes, using the latest evidence to strengthen our case and support the sector.

[Annual flu letter for 2026/27 published.](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care, the UK Health Security Agency and NHS England have jointly published the [national flu vaccination programme letter](#) for the 2026/27 season.

Please ensure that you read through the letter, below are some of the key points:

- There are no changes to eligible groups.
- As per the 2025/26 season, pharmacies will only be able to vaccinate pregnant women from 1 September 2026; vaccination of other adult cohorts will start from 1 October 2026.
- There are two changes to the recommended vaccines that pharmacy owners will need to consider when finalising their orders; and
- There is a reinforcement of the circumstances when the egg-based vaccine, IIVe, can be used.

A [seasonal vaccination provider guide](#) has also been published.

[Changes to the reporting of Temporary Suspensions.](#)

From **1 June 2026**, the Manage Your Service (MYS) will be the only route to notify ICBs of temporary suspensions/closures.

[Pharmacy First: New briefing on urgent supply of medicines and appliances.](#)

A new CPE briefing on the urgent supply of medicines and appliances strand of Pharmacy First has been published.

[Pharmacy IT workstreams update published as IT group meets.](#)

CPE has released an IT update bulletin ahead of the Community Pharmacy IT Group's ([CP ITG](#)) Spring meeting.

[Clamping down on inappropriate EPS nomination and service direction.](#)

CPE is taking steps to tackle inappropriate EPS pharmacy nomination practices and service direction, which contravene the principles of patient choice.

[Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Out-of-pocket \(OOP\) expenses.](#)

As part of their [Funding & Reimbursement Shorts series](#), Community Pharmacy England's in-house Drug Tariff funding and regulatory experts have created a new video on out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses.

[Negotiations on 2026/27 Contractual Framework commence.](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has entered consultation with Community Pharmacy England on the 2026/27 Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF).

[DHSC Consultation on the Disclosure Regulations.](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care launched a public consultation on proposed amendments to the Health Service Products (Provision and Disclosure of Information) Regulations.

[New NHS Standard for the Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag \(RADF\).](#)

The NHS has introduced a new Information Standard for the Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag (RADF). This standard outlines how health and care providers can record and share information about patients who require reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010.

[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.](#)

[Community Pharmacy BLMK-N LinkedIn.](#)

Email: office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk