

This issue covers:

Local News:

- Community Pharmacy BLMK- N invitation to event – **28/6/26**.
- NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service reminder.
- FAO Northants – Labelling requirements for split packs of Trazodone liquid.
- FAO BLMK- Care Homes News.
- Reminder – FAO Luton – CGL update and webinar – **16/4/26 19:00 – 20:30**.
- Immunisation incidents reporting- East of England

Training & Events:

- CPPE East Midlands Spring newsletter.
- CPPE East of England Spring Newsletter
- Primary care cybersecurity webinar – **14/4/26**.
- The Primary Care Show – **20 & 21 May**.
- Bringing Primary Care Together Conference – **21 & 22 June**.
- Community Pharmacy BLMK- N – Event Invite – **28/6/26**.

National News/Reminders:

- PQS deadline – **31/3/26**.
- C-19 Vac – PGD published.
- Update on meningococcal.
- Bank Holiday resources to support pharmacy teams with Opioid Treatment Programmes.
- Reminder – Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026 – open until **10:00 on 13/4/26**.
- Amendments to Human Medicines Regulations to support vaccine supply

Local News

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N invitation to an event on Sunday 28 June 2026.

You are invited to One Team in Action: Strength, Strategy, Success—an event designed to help pharmacy contractors strengthen their business, empower their teams, and invest in their own wellbeing. To secure your place [Register](#) your place today!

Reminder to all pharmacies re – NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service.

It has been made aware that some pharmacists are not following the service specification relating to the below point (4.13) and have been turning patients away if they are not registered with a GP:

*If the person provides consent to share the outcome of the consultation with their general practice, information relating to the consultation will be shared with the person's general practice. However, **if the person does not consent to sharing information with their general practice or they are not registered with a general practice, the consultation can still proceed, and a notification to the practice will not need to be sent.***

Please can you ensure that staff and pharmacists are aware of this point within the service specification.

FAO Northants – Contractor Reminder: Labelling Requirements for Split Packs of Trazodone Liquid.

We have recently been made aware of incidents where Trazodone Oral Solution supplied in split quantities were dispensed without an expiry date or batch number on the label.

As expiry-after-opening periods vary between manufacturers, this information is essential for safe use—particularly in care home settings.

Please ensure that whenever medicines are dispensed out of their original container, the following are clearly included on the dispensing label:

- Expiry date after opening
- Batch number
- Any relevant stability or storage information

Accurate labelling helps protect patients, supports care home staff, and ensures compliance with professional and regulatory standards.

Thank you for your continued commitment to safe dispensing practices.

FAO BLMK – Care Homes News.

Important information containing new contacts and resources from 1 **April 2026**.

Reminder – FAO Luton – Update on CGL contract and webinar.

As a result of a recent tender process conducted by Luton Borough Council, Change Grow Live (CGL) and partners will continue to provide Drug & Alcohol treatment and Recovery services in Luton commencing on **1 April 2026**. Please ensure that you read the attached **letter** regarding the updates.

CGL will be holding an evening webinar on **Thursday 16 April 19:00 – 20:30** with an opportunity for feedback and contractors to ask questions. The invite will be sent nearer the time of the webinar. The webinar **is open to all Luton contractors**, including those who currently do not offer the service and would be interested in doing so in the future.

There is now an electronic incident form for reporting any immunisation-related incidents to NHS England. The electronic incident form can be accessed here: **Vaccine Incident Reporting Form.**

We are hoping that this updated process will make reporting incidents easier for providers.

Once submitted, the form will automatically be sent to your local Screening & Immunisation Team (SIT), and you should receive an automated acknowledgement that the form has been submitted (if you do not receive an acknowledgement of submission, please contact RVOC: england.eoe-vacprg@nhs.net). If your SIT requires any further information, they will contact you (usually within 2 working days). If you do not hear from your SIT, please assume that they have all the necessary information and have logged and closed the incident.

Training & Events

[CPPE East Midlands Spring 2026 Newsletter.](#)

[CPPE East of England Spring Newsletter](#)

Primary care cybersecurity webinars: repeat sessions running.

NHS England and City of London Police Cyber Griffin team are delivering a cybersecurity webinar for primary care. This webinar 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 B: **2-3.30pm, 14 April.**

The Primary Care Show.

Join over 5000 primary care professionals at The Primary Care Show on **20-21 May 2026** at the NEC Birmingham.

Bringing Primary Care together 21-22 June 2026 – National Conference Centre Birmingham.

This two-day event aims to bring together pharmacy and general practice leaders to explore integrated care, service innovation, workforce development, and practical ways to strengthen collaboration across primary care.

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N Event – One Team in Action: Strength, Strategy, Success – Sunday, 28 June 2026.

You are invited to One Team in Action: Strength, Strategy, Success—an event designed to help pharmacy contractors strengthen their business, empower their teams, and invest in their own wellbeing. To secure your place [Register](#) your place today!

National News/Reminders

PQS: 31 March deadline approaches.

Pharmacy owners have until the end of **Tuesday 31 March 2026** to have their evidence to demonstrate meeting the 2025/26 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) domains that they have claimed for.

Payments for the 2025/26 scheme will be issued on **1 April 2026** to all owners who submitted a valid declaration.

C-19 vac: Spring programme PGD published.

NHS England has authorised and published the National Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination programme, with the service due to run from **13 April to 30 June 2026**.

The Government plans to introduce a new legal mechanism for the administration of vaccines – the Vaccine Group Direction – which will continue to enable suitably trained and competent registered and non-registered staff to participate in the programme. Subject to its passage through Parliament, the COVID-19 Vaccine Group Direction for the spring programme is expected to be published on **1 April 2026**.

Note, the national booking service and 119 telephone booking service will be open for the public to make bookings from **7 April 2026**.

Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework.

Given that consultation is still underway for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) for 2026/27, pharmacy contractors are reminded that all existing fees and incentive payments will continue to apply from 1 April 2026.

The Community **Pharmacy Lateral Flow Device Service** has been extended to 31 March 2027 to include an inflationary uplift to fees.

NHS England letter regarding outbreak of meningococcal disease.

CPE know pharmacy teams across the country are being asked questions by patients about the outbreak of meningococcal disease in parts of Kent.

NHS England has issued further information and guidance on this in a letter sent to ICBs.

Free supply extended to Ciprofloxacin for meningococcal outbreak.

NHSE has confirmed that use of the 'FS' endorsement to enable free supply has been extended to NHS prescriptions for oral Ciprofloxacin in response to the Meningitis B outbreak.

As there is currently no functionality in GP clinical systems to support free supply for this indication, NHSE is advising GPs to issue paper FP10 forms for oral Ciprofloxacin endorsed 'FS' with the prescriber's initials or signature annotated alongside the item. However, if an electronic prescription is issued with 'FS' marked against the item, this should also be treated as a free-of-charge item and processed accordingly.

The prescription charge waiver only applies to FS-endorsed oral Ciprofloxacin prescriptions dispensed and collected between 5 March to 21 April 2026. This may be subject to change as the situation evolves.

Pharmacies may be asked to provide a FP57 refund form or till receipt if a patient has already paid for their prescription. All refund requests will be managed by the NHSBSA.

[Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group launches new Bank Holiday resources.](#)

The Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group (CPPSG) has released two resources aimed at supporting community pharmacy teams with Opioid Treatment Programmes:

- “Focus on Methadone”, video resource: designed for community pharmacy professionals, the video provides practical hints and tips to support the safe supply of methadone through an opioid treatment programme, reinforcing best practice standards across the sector.
- Bank Holiday checklist, to aid pharmacy teams delivering opioid treatment programmes before, during and after Bank Holidays.

[Income Support and Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance exemptions to end from April 2026.](#)

From **15 April 2026**, the prescription exemption categories for Income Support (Box H) and Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (Box K) will no longer be valid reasons for exemption from NHS prescription charges for people previously receiving these benefits.

[Evaluation of childhood flu vaccination service.](#)

NHS England is undertaking a service evaluation of the delivery of the childhood flu vaccination service, where flu vaccines were administered to two to three-year-olds in community pharmacies during the 2025/26 campaign. Community pharmacies are invited to share their experience before **17 April 2026**. Feedback will help inform decisions about future services. Please contact england.vaccination@nhs.net with questions about this evaluation.

[CPE Comms: Are you getting what you need?](#)

A short survey has opened to hear what pharmacy owners think of Community Pharmacy England’s communications and how they could be improved. [CPE Communications Survey for Pharmacy Owners](#) open until **12 noon on Friday 17 April**.

[Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Claiming payment for EPS prescriptions.](#)

As part of CPE [Funding & Reimbursement Shorts](#) series, Community Pharmacy England’s in-house Drug Tariff and funding experts have created a new video on claiming payment for EPS prescriptions.

[HMR Amendments Supporting Vaccine supply and deployment](#)

On 31 March and 1 April 2026 a number of amendments to the Human Medicines Regulations (HMR) 2012 will come into force, subject to parliamentary process. These amendments are being introduced to support and improve vaccine deployment and supply across the UK.

To help healthcare teams to understand these changes, NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) has published [a video presentation](#). In this video expert speakers from SPS, the Department of Health and Social Care, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, NHSE England and the UK Health Security Agency outline the amendments to the regulations.

Reminder – Changes to the registration and de-registration process for the seasonal vaccination advanced service from 1 April 2026.

From 1 April 2026 contractors must use the NHSBSA's [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) to register and deregister for the 2026/27 seasonal vaccination advanced service.

Up until 31 March 2026, contractors should continue to use the [MS Form](#) provided by NHS England to register or deregister.

Contractors who register for the service using the MS Form by 31 March 2026 will have their registration for the COVID-19 and adult flu services transferred into MYS and do not need to register again.

Reminder – Pharmacy Pressures Survey extended.

The deadline to respond to Community Pharmacy England Pressures Survey has been **extended to 10am on Monday 13th April**.

Reminder – FP34C and prescription bundle submission deadlines over Easter.

With Good Friday (3 April) bank holiday occurring in the first five days of April 2026, pharmacy owners will be afforded an extra day, **6 April**, to submit their FP34C declaration using the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#). However, this year, the 6 April is also a bank holiday (Easter Monday) which means that the benefit of the extended submission deadline may be lost for many pharmacies closed during the Easter holidays. For example, pharmacies closed during the long Easter weekend may only have two days (1 or 2 April) to submit their March 2026 declaration to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

Therefore, CPE is providing advance notice to help pharmacy owners make arrangements to **submit their March FP34C declarations by the 6 April** to secure early advance payment on 10 April 2026.

Reminder – Pharmacy bank holiday opening hours in 2026/2027.

CPE Regulations Team has published a briefing providing essential guidance on pharmacy opening hour requirements for the remainder of 2026 and in 2027.

Fulfilling opening hour requirements is a key part of pharmacies' Terms of Service, but when there are bank holidays it is not always straightforward to keep track of hours. This updated briefing helps pharmacy owners plan for upcoming public holidays and understand how these and any substitute days affect their contractual obligations.

Reminder – Patient-facing website to promote NHS pharmacy clinical services.

CPE have launched a patient-facing website to promote the Pharmacy First, Hypertension Case-Finding and Pharmacy Contraception Services.

The website (communitypharmacy.org.uk) can be used to provide information on these services and direct patients to all the pharmacies in England that offer them via the NHS website.

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