

This issue covers:

Local News:

- One Team in Action Event.
- Reminder – Ban on puberty blockers.

National News/Reminders:

- The Data Security & Protection Toolkit submission – **deadline 30/6/26**.
 - Spring C-19 vac service.
 - MenB further information provided.
 - Flu & Childhood Flu vac PGD & VGD published.
-

Local News

One Team in Action: United in purpose, driven in practice – Event.

Our One Team in Action event, yesterday, was a tremendous success, bringing together colleagues across BLMK & Northamptonshire for a day of shared learning, collaboration and lively discussion.

Delegates engaged brilliantly throughout the sessions and the event sparked many excellent conversations about the future of community pharmacy.

We were delighted to welcome our guest speakers, **Baldev Bange**, **Bhavin Patel** and **Matthew Rossor**, whose insights and expertise added real depth to the day.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to such a positive and energising event.

Reminder – Ban on puberty blockers to be made indefinite on experts' advice.

It has been brought to our attention, that some pharmacies within our area have been presented with digital prescriptions for puberty blockers medication. If you are presented with a private prescription for puberty blockers, please ensure that you have read and updated your team on the guidance.

Below is an at a glance summary:

- Under-18s, new patients: Cannot access puberty blockers privately for gender dysphoria or gender incongruence

- Under-18s, existing patients: Can continue if they started treatment before June 2024 (August 2024 in Northern Ireland)
 - Adults (18+): Can still access puberty blockers privately for any purpose
 - NHS prescriptions: Unaffected by this Order (but NHS England has separately stopped prescribing)
 - Other uses: Under-18s can still access puberty blockers privately for conditions other than gender dysphoria
 - Overseas prescribers: Cannot prescribe for under-18s even for non-gender purposes
- Key:** ● Permitted ● Limited or conditional ● Prohibited or restricted

Legislation: The Medicines (Gonadotrophin-Releasing Hormone Analogues) (Restrictions on Private Sales and Supplies) Order 20241

Type: UK Statutory Instrument (No. 1319) Applies to: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Made: 11 December 2024

In force: 1 January 2025

Review due: By 1 October 2027

Link: legislation.gov.uk

National News/Reminders

URGENT – 1 day to go: Data Security Toolkit completion underway.

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPTK) submission is due by **30 June 2026** as part of a pharmacy's annual information governance (IG) declaration. It is a mandatory requirement under the NHS Terms of Service that demonstrates core information governance standards and maintains patient trust.

Reminder: Spring C-19 Vac Service 2026 ends 30 June 2026.

Pharmacy owners are reminded that the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service for the spring campaign ends tomorrow (**30 June 2026**).

Pharmacy teams should not administer any further vaccinations under this phase of the service after this date and any promotional material related to the service should be removed from display.

Pharmacy owners should ensure they submit any final claims for payment for the service in early July. Claims should be submitted within one month of, and no later than three months from the claim period for the vaccinations provided.

Stop Press NHS England (**East of England**) **BLMK ONLY** has confirmed that the Spring COVID-19 vaccination programme has been **extended until 8 July 2026** due to the impact of the recent extreme heat on vaccine logistics, vaccinator availability and patient uptake.

NHS England has confirmed that this extension is a **regional exception** and that the national PGD/VGD cannot be extended. As a result, all vaccinations administered between **1 and 8 July** must be delivered under a **Patient Specific Direction (PSD)**.

What this means for pharmacy contractors

- A PSD is a written instruction from an authorised prescriber for an individual named patient to receive their vaccination.
- Unlike a PGD, a PSD cannot be used as a blanket authorisation for multiple patients.
- Contractors wishing to continue vaccinating during the extension period must have arrangements in place for PSDs to be completed before vaccinations are administered.
- Contractors **who do not have access to an appropriate prescriber arrangement** may not be able to continue vaccinating beyond 30 June.

We recognise this presents operational challenges for community pharmacy, where vaccination services are typically delivered under PGDs. However, NHS England has advised that a PSD is the only legal mechanism available once the national PGD/VGD expires.

MenB Vacc Service: PGD, resources and reminder of registration date deadline.

The **Patient Group Direction (PGD)** for the Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service has now been published by the UK Health Security Agency.

Registration is now open and if you register by **6 July 2026** it will help to guarantee vaccine stock for the service start date on **20 July 2026**.

East of England MenB Programme Webinar Q&A Sessions:

NHS England East of England regional team will be running three identical 30-minute webinar Q&A sessions on the following dates and times:

- **30 June, 1:00–1:30pm**
- **30 June, 6:30–7:00pm**
- **1 July, 8:00–8:30am**

The webinars will be covering programme requirements, training, eligibility, vaccine handling, incident management, communications and key clinical considerations, including the importance of completing the two-dose course.

Next steps for pharmacy owners:

- Read and review the **service specification** before registering.
- Complete the **registration form**.

Please note: Pharmacies will also NEED TO:

- Have access to the **Federated Data Platform (FDP)** so that they can order the vaccine.
- Have access to **Manage Your Appointments (MYA)** in order to manage their NBS booking calendars.
- Have access to Record a Vaccine (RAVS) and can sign up for this **here** if they do not already have an account.

Those who do not currently have access to FDP or MYA will need to complete the [onboarding form](#) to access these platforms.

Patient resources available:

MenB patient information materials are available to order free of charge from [Free public health resources](#).

Key resources include:

Resource	Title and ordering link	Product code
Leaflet	A guide to the Meningococcal B vaccines that help to protect against meningitis and septicaemia	13347EN001
Poster	MenB vaccination poster – under 25	13349EN001
Vaccination record card	MenB vaccination record card	13348EN001
Consent form	MenB programme consent form	1334AEN001
Digital graphic for display screens	The signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia – digital screens	IM23DISP1
Poster for healthcare settings	Don't ignore the signs and symptoms posters	IM23DISP1

Patient information materials are also available on [GOV.UK](#).

All of the above information was sent out to pharmacies on Wednesday 24 June in a Gateway message.

[Flu and Childhood flu vac: PGD and VGD published.](#)

The Patient Group Direction (PGD) and Vaccine Group Direction (VGD) are now available for the autumn/winter 2026/27 NHS Flu vaccination campaign.

VGDs operate in a similar way to a PGD, but with the opportunity for some tasks within the process (preparation, administration and record-keeping) to be delegated to other suitably trained staff. The choice of whether to operate under a PGD or a VGD is the decision of the pharmacy owner.

[Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework \(CPAF\) screening questionnaire.](#)

Community pharmacy contractors should soon receive confirmation from NHSBSA that the CPAF screening questionnaire will go live on **1 July 2026** and will be available for completion until midnight on 31 July.

Users of the NHSBSA's [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) will be able to complete this year's CPAF by logging in. The very small number of contractors who do not have a sign-in for MYS will be able to complete the questionnaire online and will receive email details on how to do this.

Completion of the screening questionnaire is **compulsory**, and the results of the questionnaire will form the basis of which contractors will be asked to complete the full CPAF survey and may be visited later.

Clarity on the new settlement.

Many of you may have questions following the announcement of the **2026/27 CPCF settlement**, so CPE have published a series of FAQ's to help provide clarity.

Covering key topics such as funding changes, requirements for this year's Pharmacy Quality Scheme, and the rollout of Independent Prescribing, the FAQs are designed to help you understand what the new arrangements mean for your pharmacy.

Have your say – **Sector Poll: What do you think of the new CPCF arrangements?**

Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Prescription charges – what does the patient pay?

CPE have created a new video discussing prescription charges and guidance on how pharmacy teams can determine the number of charges that apply to items dispensed against NHS prescriptions.

CPE have also produced an **Expensive Items factsheet**, which outlines when the expensive item fee is paid and where you can find details of expensive items that have been processed for payment.

Useful Links:

Alerts recalls and safety information: medicines and medical devices.

Community Pharmacy England (CPE).

Community Pharmacy BLMK-N LinkedIn.

CPCF services and Terms of Service – Important dates.

Drug Safety Updates.

MECC – BLMK.

MECC – Northants.

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

Translation Services – Community Pharmacy BLMK.

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