Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 27 July 2026

This issue covers:

Local News:

- FAO Luton & Bedfordshire – HUC healthcare professional line.

Training & Events:

- MenB drop-in sessions online.
- CPPE newsletter for East of England.

National News/Reminders:

- MenB Vaccine update: reminders and FAQs.
- PQS – Aspiration payment window closes **28/7/26**.
- CPAF – completion by **31/7/26**.

Local News

Reminder: 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.

Training & Events

NHSE East of England MenB Drop-in sessions.
Drop in Q&A sessions, available to all, which you can join at the below times by clicking the relevant link (no registration required):

- **Wednesday 29 July, 1-1.30pm – Click to join**
- **Tuesday 4 August, 6.30-7pm – Click to join**

CPPE East of England Summer newsletter.
Contains information on new in person and online workshops, courses and extended training.

National News/Reminders

MenB vac update: reminders and FAQs.
Following the launch of the Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service, Community Pharmacy England has been working with NHS England to monitor its early progress and address teething issues.

NHS England has already **taken action** to support pharmacies in response to the concerns raised around the initial ordering and allocation process. NHS England is continuing to review these processes daily.

Help Improve Future NHS Digital Services.
Community pharmacy owners and their teams have two opportunities to help shape the development of future NHS digital services, ensuring that pharmacy perspectives are reflected in systems designed to support both clinical care and service delivery.

NHSBSA 'Hints & Tips' – Issue 64.
The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) produces a quarterly newsletter called "Hints & Tips" containing useful information and advice.

Final Reminder: PQS Aspiration payment claim window closes tomorrow.
Pharmacy owners have until 11.59pm tomorrow, **Tuesday 28 July 2026**, to claim an Aspiration payment for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27 before the window for claiming this payment closes.

Reminder: Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire.
The CPAF screening questionnaire will be available for completion until midnight on **31 July 2026**.

As a reminder for Q13 – The promotion of Health Living - *There is a plan in place to train or recruit a new qualified health champion or health and wellbeing leader within 6 months, if the qualified health champion/leader leaves the employment of the pharmacy contractor*, there is a list on the **CPE website** under the title "Training Providers" with several organisations that provide HLP training for pharmacy staff.

Reminder: Knowing your NHS POC code?
Every community pharmacy owner has an NHS Parent Organisation Code (POC).
This is the unique code that identifies your parent organisation within the NHS.

- If you own a single pharmacy, you still have a POC.
- If you own multiple pharmacies, each pharmacy site should be correctly linked to the same POC.
- POCs are usually four or five characters long and often begin with the letter **"P"**.

Getting this right is important. It helps ensure NHS records about your organisation are accurate and consistent.

Reminder: **Pharmacies preparing for national digital phoneline switchover.**
As **announced previously** the Government and connectivity providers have been advising community pharmacy owners and others to take action to prepare for the upcoming national switch-off of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), which is due to be fully decommissioned by **January 2027**.

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.