Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Fortnightly Newsletter – w/c 5 October 2026

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- Supporting vaccinations for people experiencing homelessness – **27/10/26 2-3pm**.
- On demand webinar now available to watch on upcoming changes to Part IX.
- Opportunity to participate in acne research interviews

National News/Reminders:

- First National Health Campaign starts - **5/10/26**.
- Community Pharmacy Workforce survey 2026 – completion by **14/11/26**.
- Full CPAF questionnaire – open until **31/10/26**.
- NHS flu & C-19 information.
- PQS – audit data collection tool now available.

Local News

Outcome of Boundary Realignment Vote.

Following the Special General Meeting (SGM), held on 16 September for BLMK & Northamptonshire contractors, contractors have now voted on the proposed boundary realignment affecting Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northamptonshire LPC.

We can confirm that BLMK & Northamptonshire LPC will remain unchanged until 1 April 2027. From that date, Northamptonshire contractors will transfer into the Leicestershire & Rutland LPC (LLR LPC) as part of the agreed realignment. Contractors in LLR LPC also voted in favour of the proposed change.

This decision reflects the outcome of the contractor vote and supports the wider alignment of LPC footprints with Integrated Care Board (ICB) structures. The transition will ensure that Northamptonshire and LLR contractors are represented within an LPC that mirrors the commissioning and system architecture of the local ICB.

Between now and 1 April, the current BLMK & Northamptonshire LPC will continue to operate as normal, providing support, guidance and representation for all contractors across the existing footprint. Further information on transition arrangements, governance steps and contractor engagement will be shared over the coming months.
If contractors have any questions about the vote outcome or the next steps, they are welcome to contact the LPC **office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk** for clarification.

FAO Milton Keynes – Message from ARC.
We're pleased to let you know that, from **1 October 2026**, ARC-MK has successfully moved from NEO 360 to PharmOutcomes for recording both Supervised Consumption and Needle Exchange activity. We would be grateful if all pharmacies could take a moment to check that they can access PharmOutcomes and begin recording services there moving forward. If you experience any difficulties accessing the system or need any support during the transition, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the ARC-MK team at **cnwl.arc-mk@nhs.net**. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in delivering these important services.

Training & Events

The Pharmacy Show, 11-12 October 2026 – NEC Birmingham.
The UK's largest dedicated trade show and education conference designed for the community and primary care pharmacy sector. **Register here for free**.

Price concessions webinar.
CPE are arranging a webinar on **Thursday 15 October at 7pm** for pharmacy owners to discuss price concessions and medicines supply issues with us. The online session will explain current market pressures, what happens after an above-Tariff report is submitted, how concession prices are reached, and the improvements being sought from Government.

Participants will also be able to raise concerns and share feedback that can be taken into discussions with DHSC, **Book your place now**.

Supporting vaccination for people experiencing homelessness.
UKHSA will be hosting a webinar on **Tuesday 27 October 2pm – 3pm** to launch the materials alongside a toolkit for multi-agency stakeholders to support local systems in improving vaccination uptake among people experiencing homelessness, which are due to be published this week.

The webinar is intended for colleagues working in immunisation, public health, inclusion health, health protection, primary care, NHS provider organisations, local authorities, homelessness services and the voluntary and community sector.

It will provide an opportunity to explore how the toolkit and communications materials can be used to support local planning and delivery ahead of the autumn and winter vaccination programme.
If you would like to attend, **please sign up via Microsoft Teams**.

On-demand webinar: Upcoming changes to Part IX.
A joint webinar from CPE and DHSC on upcoming changes to Part IX (Appliances) of the Drug Tariff is now available on demand. The session covers planned updates to appliance categories, implementation timelines and what the changes could mean for pharmacy teams, including potential impacts on pricing, stockholding and supply.

Community pharmacists wanted for acne research interviews.
The University of Southampton (funded by the NIHR programme Grants for Applied Research, which is part of the NHS) are looking for health professionals to take part in research to support people to self-manage acne. This will involve taking part in a qualitative interview to discuss 'Acne Care Online', an online self-management resource for young people with acne. They are interested in understanding how Acne Care Online could be used, recommended or signposted to in routine practice.

Interviews will be carried out via Teams, phone or face-to-face (depending on your preference) and at a date/time convenient to you. The interview will last approximately 30 minutes.
You will receive a £40 voucher for your time.

If you have any questions, please contact the study team by replying to **acnecare@soton.ac.uk**.

National News/Reminders

First national health campaign starts today.
The first 2026/27 national health campaign starts on **Monday 5 October 2026** and finishes on **Sunday 25 October 2026** .

All pharmacies will need to participate in the campaign, which supports the findings of **Community Pharmacy England's abuse in pharmacies poll** – focuses on treating pharmacy teams with respect, helping staff to work safely and in the best interests of patients.

Pharmacy owners can use campaign materials from NHS England or Community Pharmacy England to promote the messages through posters, their website or social media channels.

Have you completed the 2026 mandatory workforce survey?
Pharmacy owners are reminded of the requirement to complete the 2026 workforce survey, which is a mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners. The data will be collected via an

online survey which can be accessed by logging into the **NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**. The survey will close at **11.59pm on Saturday 14 November 2026**.

Full CPAF Questionnaire open until 31 October 2026.

Selected pharmacies have from **1 October 2026** until **31 October 2026** to complete the full questionnaire and will be notified via email from NHS Business Services Authority.

Pharmacies will need to complete the full CPAF questionnaire on the **Manage Your Service (MYS) website** if they already have access, if not pharmacies will be contacted separately via email.

Pharmacies may be selected for the full CPAF questionnaire if, for example, they did not complete the screening questions or if there are concerns about the pharmacy relating to patient safety. Some pharmacies may also be selected to validate their answers to the screening questions.

NHS Flu and C-19 vaccine programmes roll out to all those eligible.

From **1 October 2026**, the flu and COVID-19 vaccination programmes rollout to all eligible people.

For adult flu vaccinations, this includes people aged 65 and over, adults with certain long-term health conditions, care home residents, carers, close contacts of people who are immunocompromised and people experiencing homelessness.

Community pharmacies are now also able to provide flu vaccinations to all children aged 2- and 3-years old **and** children aged 4-17 years old with certain long-term health conditions.

Pharmacy owners are reminded that pharmacies **cannot** administer flu vaccinations to school aged children (Reception to Year 11) who are not part of the clinical at-risk cohort until **1 December 2026**.

Reminder – Community pharmacies must record all NHS vaccinations in the Record a Vaccination Service (RAVS) IT system.

Flu Vaccinations - New for this season – People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)

In recent discussions on flu vaccination delivery, NHS colleagues emphasised that people experiencing homelessness, including rough sleepers and those living in homeless shelters, should not be turned away when presenting for vaccination at a community pharmacy. This population often faces significant barriers to accessing healthcare. This may be their only interaction with healthcare services during flu season, and missing the opportunity to vaccinate could leave them unprotected. Pharmacists are encouraged to take every opportunity to vaccinate eligible individuals within this cohort.

More information and resources will be available in the **Supporting vaccination for people experiencing homelessness** webinar on **27 October 2pm – 3pm**.

Changes to Advance payments for flu vaccination service.
The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has **announced** that from the 2026/27 flu vaccination season, the reimbursement element for flu vaccinations will be excluded from the calculation of Average Item Values (AIVs) used to determine advance payments to pharmacy owners. Pharmacy owners will still receive a reimbursement advance for adult flu vaccinations, based on the updated AIV calculation for that pharmacy.

PQS: Audit data collection tool now available.
The **Manage Your Service** data collection tool for the **Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2026/27 clinical services audit** is now open. Contractors must submit their anonymised audit data by 11.59pm on 31 March 2027 to claim Domain 2 – Professional Practice.

Submissions can be saved and completed later, but only submitted data is eligible for payment. The audit requires at least 10 unique patients receiving NHS Pharmacy First clinical pathways consultations. As the **audit guidance** sets out, contractors can audit clinical records retrospectively for consultations delivered since 1 April 2026.

Funding, medicines and services: delivering for pharmacy owners in 2025/26.
Community Pharmacy England has published its **2025/26 Annual Report**, highlighting progress made on behalf of pharmacy owners during another challenging year for the sector.

Drug Tariff Watch – October 2026.
The **Drug Tariff Preface** published monthly, lists additions, deletions and other changes to products listed in the Drug Tariff. Below is a summary of the **changes coming into effect from 1 October 2026**.

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.