



COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE GENERAL UPDATE 24th July 2025

Information is subject to change and is as accurate as we can ascertain at date published.
If your pharmacy is part of a larger organisation (CCA, IPA), please consult with your HO in relevant matters.

LOCAL

Community Pharmacy Strategy Building Session

Our Community Pharmacy Strategy Building Session took place on 10th July 2025 with the aim to start to develop a future strategic approach for community pharmacy.

Fiona Lowe – LPC CEO:

I would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed so enthusiastically to our strategy session for Community Pharmacy and its place within wider system.

We had more than 20 people in the room for the full 3 hours and lunch afterwards. Alongside our LPC members and team we had chief pharmacists from the two acute hospitals, LMC representation, PCN and senior ICB team members as well as our regional CPE rep and CP Pharmacy London CEO. We really do appreciate you giving up your time to support and look forward to working with you all going forward and hopefully seeing many of you at our September meeting. Special thanks to ICS academy facilitators Abby, Dianne and Tony who kept us all on track on what was a very hot day! Many new relationships were built as well as old ones enhanced. There was definitely a positive feeling within the room and willingness to work together for our patients.

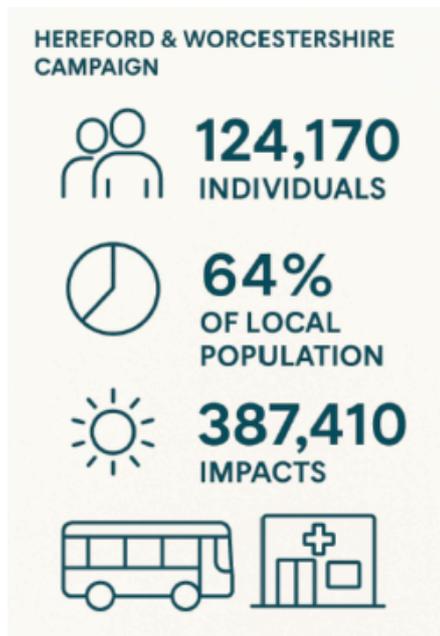


Anurag Hegde – LPC Chair:

Further to Fiona's comments, today's discussions were really constructive around our ways of working and the direction we're heading as a healthcare team, and your attendance is greatly appreciated. Let's continue to build on this momentum by keeping these communication channels open and actively supporting one another as we navigate the broader system changes ahead.



Pharmacy Contraception Service: Bus Advert Campaign



At the request of Community Pharmacy Arden and Community Pharmacy Hereford & Worcestershire, Central Health Solutions (CHS) launched a targeted bus advertising campaign for the NHS Community Pharmacy Contraception Service from June 9 to July 6, 2025. The campaign strategically placed high-visibility adverts in key high-density areas, ensuring maximum exposure and effectively raising awareness of the service. Bus advertising was the perfect medium, seamlessly integrating the contraception service into people's everyday lives and highlighting its accessibility through local pharmacies.

With 30 buses in Hereford & Worcestershire, the campaign reached over 124,000 individuals. This resulted in 64% coverage with 387,000 impacts. In total, the campaign generated over 1.4 million impacts across Coventry & Warwickshire and Herefordshire & Worcestershire combined, effectively reinforcing the message that contraception services are easily accessible to the public.

This initiative successfully positioned the NHS Contraception Service as an accessible, everyday healthcare option, reinforcing its presence in local communities and pharmacies. The widespread visibility of the campaign ensured that the message reached a diverse, engaged audience, further cementing the role of pharmacies as trusted healthcare providers and making the service feel like a natural part of everyday healthcare.



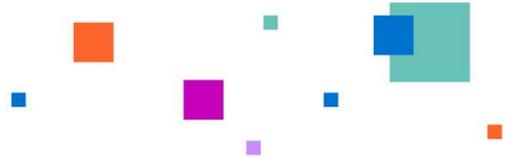
Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) are being introduced locally. These are collaborative groups formed to address the comprehensive health and wellbeing needs of local populations.

Website links: [Integrated neighbourhood teams - National Association of Primary Care](#)

Locally PCNs are looking at how to get neighbourhoods organised, so do ask at your local surgeries if anything is going on in your area and get involved if you can and please share with us any information, meeting dates etc.

A video of the Northants model can be found on this [link](#).



Smoking Cessation Advanced Service Local Changes

There have been some changes to the provision of smoking cessation provision to inpatients within both Worcester Acute Trust and Wye Valley Trust that may impact on the national smoking cessation discharge service.

At Worcester Acute, although all in-patients will continue to receive Trust-provided NRT, in line with Trust policies, provisions of NRT above and beyond that by the ICB will now not be provided. However, the patients will continue to receive full cessation behavioural support by a trained adviser.

At Wye Valley Trust, similarly, in-patients with tobacco will receive NRT during their stay in line with their own in-patient policies. However, at this site, the only behavioural support that will be offered will be brief interventions/MECC.

Referrals will continue to be made from both sites to community pharmacies. Note however that although patients will likely be discharged with *some* NRT, both Trusts will no longer be discharging patients with up to 2 weeks of NRT. These patients will still be eligible for the service and therefore this should not lead to a reduction in referrals. The impact might be that patients have a more immediate need for NRT supply through the service than was previously needed.

REGIONAL/ NATIONAL

Flu Vac Service Specs Published

The service specification for the 2025/26 Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service has been published by NHS England [here](#).

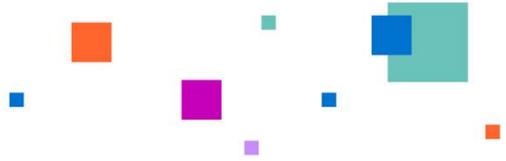
There are only a few changes from last year. These include clarification that the responsible pharmacist is professionally accountable for the service, a new requirement to seek permission before offering off-site vaccinations, and guidance to ensure proper oversight and governance for off-premises delivery. The eligibility criteria have also been updated to reflect changes to vaccine use by age group and clinical risk.

The patient group direction (PGD) and national protocol are expected shortly. The service fee is still under ministerial consideration following CPE's submission of an evidence-based case for an increase in the fee, and an update on this is expected shortly. Find out more on CPE [here](#).

Children's Flu Vac Advanced Service from October

This winter community pharmacies will be able to take part in a one-season trial of a new flu vaccination service for children aged 2–3 years.

Following agreement between Community Pharmacy England and NHS England, the new Advanced service aims to improve vaccine uptake in this age group. Most eligible children will require the Live attenuated influenza vaccine nasal spray suspension (LAIV) nasal spray vaccine, which will be supplied to pharmacies from centrally supplied stock.



Pharmacies opting in will be paid £9.58 per vaccination, funded from outside the CPCF global sum. Pharmacy owners will be able to sign up to provide the service via the MYS portal between 1st and 31st August 2025.

More information can be found on CPE [here](#).

Reminder: CPAF deadline approaching

The deadline for completing the 2025/26 CPAF screening questionnaire is **31st July 2025**.

Completion of CPAF is a requirement of the Terms of Service, therefore, pharmacy owners must complete the screening questionnaire and, if required, the full CPAF questionnaire.

Community pharmacies should have received information and instructions on how to complete the screening questionnaire either via email from the NHSBSA or from their own Head Office.

CPE guidance on CPAF can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries, please contact NHSBSA by emailing pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Reminder: Pharmacy First Claims

Pharmacy owners are reminded that the claim period for Pharmacy First has been reduced to one month and therefore claims for consultations provided in June 2025 must be submitted via the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal by 11:59pm on 31st July 2025.

Late claims will only be paid if an IT-related issue outside the pharmacy's control caused the delay. These exceptional claims must be submitted alongside supporting evidence within 12 months.

More information on CPE [here](#).

Reminder: Price Concessions

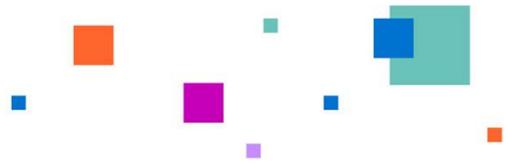
To support the price concession mechanism, contractors are reminded to report any supply issues via the CPE portal: [Report product over Drug Tariff price - Community Pharmacy England](#).

Reporting through this portal will help trigger the price concession mechanism and can lead to a change in the Drug Tariff remuneration price but CPE need sufficient evidence to show that this is a widespread issue to enable them to request action in their monthly meetings with DHSC.

NHS App Webinar Slides

There's a recording available of the NHS App Update Webinar that took place on 8th July 2025.

The webinar [recording](#) and [slide deck](#) have been added to the FutureNHS page, along with the [NHS App prescriptions – opportunity collection form](#) which was mentioned in the session.



You can access previous recordings [here](#). (please note that access to the FutureNHS platform requires registration)

Questions from the session are being collated and will be addressed in the near future.

If you have any queries or issues regarding the NHS App, these can be raised via a dedicated service portal: <https://www.nhs.uk/contact-us/nhs-app-contact-us>

Promotional materials for the NHS App can be found on the following links:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app/toolkit>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app/toolkit/general-promotional-materials>

TRAINING NEWS

NHS-funded CPPE ACPT Programme

NHS England is funding a final round of places on CPPE's [Accuracy checking pharmacy technician \(ACPT\) programme](#).

So far, this programme has supported over 1400 pharmacy technicians working in the community, hospital and secure environment sectors to upskill and become final accuracy checkers.

Normally priced at £330, this is a fantastic opportunity to access the programme for free – but it won't be repeated.

Why apply now?

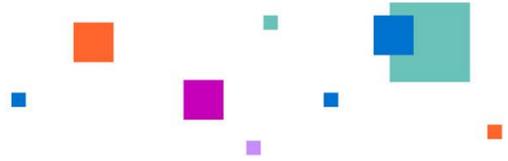
- NHS England has confirmed this will be the last funded round
- Open to all sectors – no minimum cohort sizes, just open applications
- If not eligible for funding, can still apply for a paid place (£330 including VAT)

If you meet the course criteria, this is the last chance to join the programme without paying the full fee. Don't miss out. [Full details of the programme, the entry criteria and how to apply](#)

Foundation Trainee Supervisors

Please see information from NHSE regarding the process for foundation trainee sign up. It has changed this year and is a shared process between GPhC and NHSE. We received the information below to cascade as there have been queries around whether trainees are eligible to start foundation training without a formal letter from NHSE.

As long as the criteria below is met and the form with details for ES is complete then the trainee can start the training programme.



The registration form can be found [here](#).

Dear Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Supervisor

The trainee will receive an email from the GPhC confirming their Foundation Trainee Pharmacist status and their eligibility to start their training.

Please check that your trainee has received confirmation of Foundation Trainee Pharmacist status from the GPhC and has provided this to you.

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and NHS England (NHSE) will be carrying out eligibility checks.

Trainees will be eligible to start their foundation training if they have:

- Passed their pharmacy qualification (GPhC checks this)
- Registered with the GPhC, and have paid the required fee (GPhC checks this)
- A Designated Supervisor, who is a pharmacist registered with the GPhC, and who has completed NHS England's Supervisor Registration Form (NHSE and the GPhC checks this). **Please complete the DS registration as a matter of urgency to avoid delays in confirming the trainee's status. If you are not the DS, please forward this email to the relevant DS and/or DPP contact: [NHS England Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme \(FTPP\) Supervisor Registration Form - NHS ML Medicines Management and Optimisation Service](#)**

Resources to support DPPs and those involved in foundation trainee pharmacist programmes

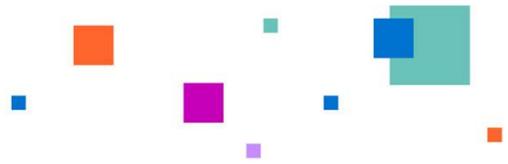
There are a number of resources available to support those who are involved with foundation pharmacist training by signing up to the Midlands Pharmacy Leadership NHS Futures page, then scrolling down to Foundation Year Training DPP support workspace. You do **not** need an nhs.net email address to join the page. To set up an account, please visit <https://future.nhs.uk/MidlandsPharmacyLeadership> then follow the instructions [here](#).

Resources are especially relevant to designated prescribing practitioners and will also be useful for designated supervisors and employers, as independent prescribing for trainee pharmacists starts for trainees starting this summer. If you have looked at the Futures page DPP workspace previously, there have been a lot more resources added recently for you to check out. For qualified pharmacists (who may become DPPs in future), there are links to universities in the Midlands which run IP courses, and NHS WT&E links to funding for these courses.

Details of this resource will also be shared directly with DSs and DPPs for trainees starting this summer, once they have completed the NHS E WT&E registration forms sharing their details for which trainees they will be supervising.

There is also a discussion board where peers can support each other during this first iteration of trainee pharmacists completing IP training.

continued...



MoU documents for cross sector trainee foundation pharmacists

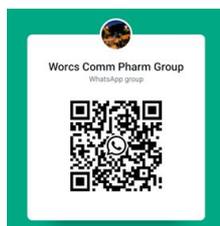
We have received copies of the MoU documents for trainee foundation pharmacists. You can find links to these below:

[Template Multi-Sector Rotation Agreement for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists \(MS Word\)](#)

[Template Agreement between Rotation Provider and Trainee Pharmacist \(MS Word\)](#)

[Explanatory Notes for the Template Multi-Sector Rotation Agreement for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists \(PDF\)](#)

Finally.... WhatsApp Groups Reminder to share the WhatsApp groups with others who work in community pharmacy within Herefordshire and Worcestershire.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Chief Executive Officer: fionalowe@nhs.net
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USEFUL LINKS:

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline Tracker](#)

[CPE CPCF Important Dates](#)

[Virtual Outcomes - Pharmacy Training](#)