

COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE

GENERAL UPDATE 21st August 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.

Recruiting: LPC Team Job Opportunities

Current temporary opportunity

We are looking for temporary admin support from September to end of January 2026. This would be based in our office in Evesham. Key skills include being competent in the use of Microsoft Office (including Teams, Excel, Word and PowerPoint), communication, teamworking, planning and organising. It would be based in our Evesham office over 3-4 days for 15-20 hours a week.

Future opportunity

CPA and CPHW will be looking for a joint Chief Executive Officer (CEO) across the two LPCs to start in April 2026, to allow for a minimum of a 3-month handover period. The role will be formally advertised at the end of 2025. The current CEO, who is retiring in the summer next year, is happy to discuss the role and how the LPCs and support team work together ahead of this. A good understanding of all aspects of community pharmacy, general locality and the NHS is key. This is a pivotal role requiring high levels of influencing, relationship management and tenacity to help contractors and their teams navigate the huge level of change locally and nationally within healthcare. Note that the two LPCs cover two ICBs which are clustering.

For further information for either role please contact Fiona Lowe on fionalowe@nhs.net 07792970382

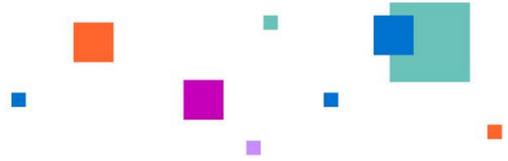
LOCAL/LPC NEWS

Voting Forms and AGM The accounts voting forms were emailed to all pharmacies in Herefordshire and Worcestershire last Tuesday. CCA representatives have received these emails directly, while the forms for Independent and IPA pharmacies were sent to their shared NHS emails. Some IPA representatives will have also received an email to their personal email account where it was available. **The deadline to return the distance voting forms is 23rd September.** Everyone is welcome to attend our AGM on 25th September and cast your vote in person if preferred. The AGM agenda can be downloaded [here](#).

Updated: August Bank Holiday Pharmacy Rota

There has been a change to the pharmacy rota that we shared two weeks ago and we have updated our printable spreadsheet accordingly, which you can download [here](#).

Please note that pharmacy contractors are expected to have updated their own NHS UK and DoS profiles. If DoS Profile has not been updated in time, pharmacies will need to request emergency profiling changes by the DoS team by phoning 0300 0200 363.



Opening Intentions for Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays 2025/26

(the following communication was sent to all pharmacies by the Pharmacy Primary Care Commissioning Team Office of the West Midlands)

Please provide your proposed opening times for the following bank and public holidays:

- Christmas Day – Thursday 25th December 2025
- Boxing Day – Friday 26th December 2025
- New Year's Day – Thursday 1st January 2026

Bank Holiday Intended Opening Times

Please use MS form link below for bank holiday intended opening times. Please note this form is to be used to give us details of your intended opening times for the Christmas and New Year 2025-26 Bank holidays only.

[Bank Holiday Opening Intentions - Christmas and New Year 2025-26](#)

Bank Holiday Rota Expression of Interest

Please use MS form below to express an interest to be included in a bank holiday rota for Christmas and New Year 2025-26 Bank Holidays only.

[Bank Holiday Expression of Interest - Christmas and New Year 2025-26](#)

This is an opportunity to express an interest in opening under Direction during Christmas and New Year 2025-26 bank holidays. This is an expression of interest for consideration only and submission does not guarantee that you will be Directed to open. If you have not heard from us by 2nd October 2025, please assume your pharmacy has not been selected to open under direction.

Bank holiday direction Rota

NHS England (Now managed by ICBs) has a duty to ensure that there is adequate pharmacy provision over all bank and public holidays (including Easter Sunday). If NHS England (ICBs) believe that there is not adequate provision we may issue directions to one or more pharmacies, requiring them to open under direction. Please note: If you are issued with a Direction to open during Christmas and New Year 2025-26 bank holidays, the payment will be paid at £275 (per hour) for Boxing Day and New Year's Day and £350 (per hour) for Christmas day.

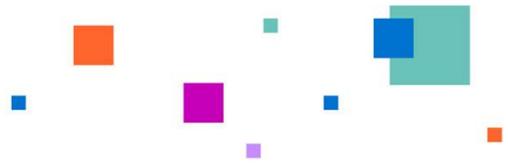
Please note that only information provided on the above links will be accepted, except for Head Offices/Corporates where a spreadsheet sent under separate cover with a list of opening intentions will be accepted.

The MS forms will close on 5th September 2025 at 23.59pm

REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

Changes to MYS Portal

Changes are being made to the Manage Your Service (MYS) pharmacy portal today, aimed at improving user experience. The updates will make it easier for pharmacy teams to manage and submit claims. You can find detailed information about the planned changes on CPE [here](#).



Flu and Covid Vaccinations National Booking System Now Open

Pharmacy owners using the National Booking Service (NBS) to offer appointments for adult flu and COVID-19 vaccinations can now post appointments within the system, ahead of patients being able to use NBS to book appointments from 1st September 2025, for vaccination from 1st October 2025.

More details on CPE [here](#).

PQS: Publication of clinical audit

NHS England has published the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) Antimicrobial stewardship – Pharmacy First consultations – Clinical Audit.

Completion of the audit, as well as sharing anonymised data with NHS England and incorporating any learnings from the audit into future practice by the end of 31st March 2026, is a quality criterion in the Patient safety domain of the 2025/26 Scheme.

Important: Pharmacy teams should not start the audit until 1st September 2025 at the earliest.

More information on CPE [here](#).

Children's Flu Vac Webinar Recording and Slides

CPE has just published the recording of yesterday's webinar, which you can access [here](#).

The webinar slides are also available slides [here](#).

Please note the deadline to sign up for the Children's Flu Vac Service is **31st August 2025**. You can find more information about the service and the sign-up process on CPE's dedicated service page [here](#).

Reminder: Pharmacy Contraception Service Webinar

NHS England Midlands Region will be hosting a Contraception Service Update webinar for community pharmacy teams in preparation for the expansion of the service to include emergency contraception as part of the service.

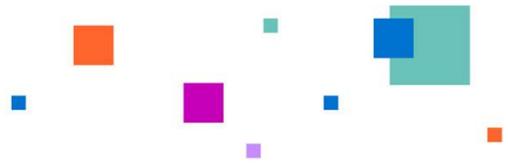
This session is designed for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and wider pharmacy teams involved in delivering contraception services.

Date: Tuesday 9th September

Time: 19:00 – 20:00

Location: Online (Webinar link will be provided upon registration)

Register here: [Community Pharmacy Webinar Registration Link](#)



Dispensing and Supply Updates from CPE

Latest updates on changes in products available on prescription:

[Reminder: discontinuation of FreeStyle® Libre 2 Sensor](#)

[Updated Medicine Supply Notification: Levemir® \(insulin detemir\) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® Penfill 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges](#)

Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)

Community Pharmacy England is aware of the planned increases to the NHS list prices for Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) and is seeking assurance from DHSC that reimbursement of NHS prescriptions dispensed from September will reflect these higher prices.

August 2025 Price Concessions 1st Update

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/august-2025-price-concessions-1st-update/>

TRAINING NEWS

Reminder: Pharmacy Technician Shadowing Pilot

As part of the Pharmacy Technician Leadership Group (PTLG) action plan, NHS England are launching a pilot scheme to support shadowing opportunities for pharmacy technicians. The aim is to create meaningful cross-sector experiences that:

- Foster Innovation – Encourage sharing of best practices and problem-solving approaches
- Improve Collaboration – Strengthen communication across acute, primary care, community, and mental health sectors
- Broaden Perspectives – Help pharmacy technicians understand the full patient care pathway
- Support Career Growth – Inspire role development and progression
- Build Empathy – Enhance understanding of pressures and priorities across settings

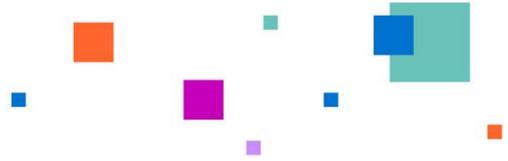
We are now looking for:

- Host sites willing to welcome a pharmacy technician for a shadowing placement
- Sites with pharmacy technicians who would benefit from or be open to a shadowing opportunity

If you're interested in participating—either as a host or by nominating a technician—please complete the short Microsoft Forms survey linked below. The form will remain open until **25 August 2025**.

<https://forms.office.com/e/NR4h92gpdS>

Further information can be found [here](#). Any queries, please contact bianca.payton@nhs.net



Reminder: CPPE Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician Programme

The CPPE Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT) programme aims to support pharmacy technicians to:

- develop the skills required to be a safe final accuracy checking pharmacy technician
- improve leadership skills to direct the dispensary team
- support the multi-disciplinary team to deliver patient-facing services.

NHS England is providing the funding for CPPE to offer the ACPT programme for pharmacy technicians working in all sectors of pharmacy practice (providing they can meet the eligibility criteria).

NHS England has confirmed this will be the last offer of its kind for the ACPT programme. If this is training you need to complete, now is the final opportunity to complete the programme while it's fully funded by NHS England.

If you are not eligible for an NHS England-funded place, the total cost of the course is £330 including VAT, which can be paid by either you or your employer.

The ACPT programme is open to pharmacy technicians who are registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), work in a premises in England and who meet the entry criteria. You can check the entry criteria [here](#).

Further information about this programme can be found [here](#).

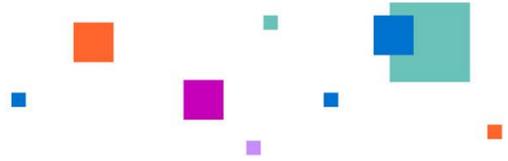
Reminder: CPPE Workshops West Midlands October 2025 – March 2026

Please find attached a PDF flyer, which details the upcoming CPPE in person training courses in the West Midlands:

[CPPE West Midlands Events Flyer 25-26](#)

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





CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office Phone M-F 10-3 or answer phone
outside of this time: 01386 897529

Office main email: ahwlpc@gmail.com

Support Officer: eva.ahwlpc@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer: fionalowe@nhs.net
07792970382

USEFUL LINKS:

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline Tracker](#)

[CPE CPCF Important Dates](#)

[Virtual Outcomes - Pharmacy Training](#)