

COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE

GENERAL UPDATE 16th October 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/LPC NEWS

Vacancy: Chief Executive Officer

Community Pharmacy Arden and Community Pharmacy Herefordshire & Worcestershire are recruiting a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to guide both LPCs through an important period of change and support pharmacy contractors and teams, building on the strong local relationships developed over the years.

The two LPCs represent 180 pharmacies in Coventry and Warwickshire and 115 pharmacies in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

This full-time, permanent role offers a competitive salary and hybrid working arrangements. Candidates must have strong community pharmacy and NHS knowledge, excellent relationship management skills, and resilience. The two LPCs cover two ICBs with varied healthcare needs across urban and rural areas. We are looking for an energetic, collaborative, influential senior leader with relevant expertise and experience.

Please see the full [job description](#) for details.

Closing Date: 7th November 2025 (or sooner if a sufficient number of suitable applications are received).

Event: Thrive to Survive - Maximising your income through NHS and Private Services!

This joint CPA/CPHW event is presented in association with the NPA.

Join us for an exciting masterclass tailored to help you excel in the world of pharmacy services. This event will consist of learning opportunities to maximise income from both NHS and Private services as well as to develop clinical knowledge and skills. This event is suitable for all pharmacy team members to attend.

Topics covered include: Pharmacy Services masterclass from our NPA expert speaker, Baldev Bange; GLP-1 clinical update, their uses and benefits; setting up a PGD based service; Pharmacy First Service Update and refresher training; Hypertension-Case Finding update and practical skills; Best Practice patient note taking session and more!



When: Sunday 16th November 2025 9.00-2.45 (please note slightly different times from the original announcement)

Where: Abbey Hotel, Hither Green Ln, Dagnell End Rd, Redditch B98 9BE

Spaces are limited so [book now!](#)

The event flyer can be downloaded [here](#).

Reminder: HMG prescriptions and referrals needing escalation

A polite reminder that if escalating a PFS referral back to HMG then please email hwicb.hmg supervisors@nhs.net. This will ensure the issue is picked up by a supervisor.

If medicine is out of stock, then please try to encourage the patient to check in other pharmacies first or utilise the LPC WhatsApp group to check for stock availability in other pharmacies, if possible. If there is no availability locally, then please return the prescription to the spine and email hwicb.hmg scriptclerks@nhs.net where possible, indicating what alternatives you understand to be available.

Bus advertisements in Herefordshire and Worcestershire

The following NHS Pharmacy advert will appear on buses across Herefordshire and Worcestershire for 4 weeks starting from 8th December:





REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

Reminder: PCS expected 29th October 2025

PCS: Provisional date for the service to [expand](#) to include the provision of oral emergency contraception (EC). In addition, the service will be updated to allow pharmacy technicians to provide the service from this day. NHS England will confirm the commencement date nearer the time, via their [Primary Care Bulletin](#), subject to receiving confirmation that the necessary changes to the clinical IT systems will be made on schedule. We believe this will be the 29th of October as planned but will confirm next week. Once the national EHC provision is available within the PCS service, this should be used in place of any local service for supply from pharmacy. The local services will remain on PharmOutcomes for three months to ensure all outstanding claims and issues are resolved.

The updated service specification, amended oral contraception PGDs and new PGDs for levonorgestrel and ulipristal were [published on the NHSBSA website](#) in June to provide advance notice to pharmacy owners and their teams of the changes.

National health campaigns for 2025/26

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England have finalised plans for two national health campaigns to promote the Pharmacy First service to the public. All pharmacies must participate in these campaigns. The campaigns will run from:

- Monday 20th October 2025 to Sunday 9th November 2025; and
- Monday 2nd February 2026 to Sunday 22nd February 2026.

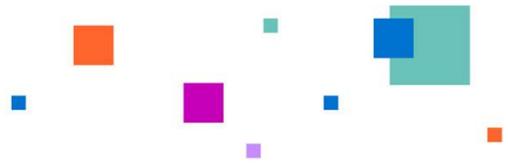
Pharmacies can promote the service in a variety of ways to meet the campaign requirements, including through materials already in use.

Read more and download resources from CPE [here](#).

C-19 vaccination eligibility: resources available

Pharmacy teams have faced major issues over the last couple of weeks, with many patients booking COVID-19 vaccinations through the National Booking System (NBS) despite not being eligible this winter.

CPE has been working with NHS England to try to address this unacceptable situation and several of the actions they requested have now been taken. In addition, there has been national media coverage of the issue which will help public understanding of the eligible groups for vaccination.



CPE has created three posters that pharmacy teams can use to help explain about vaccine eligibility this winter – these can be accessed on the links below.

[Who should have the COVID-19 vaccine this winter \(Poster\)](#)

[Information on immunosuppression and C-19 vaccination \(Poster\)](#)

[The NHS has changed who can get a COVID-19 vaccine this winter \(Poster\)](#)

Further resources are listed on the CPE website [here](#).

Celebrate Pharmacy Technician Day

Calling all Pharmacy Technicians! Please find an invitation below from the NHS Midlands Pharmacy Team to share your story:

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We're so excited to be featuring Pharmacy Technician Day in our October edition of the Pharmacy Leadership Team newsletter, but we need your stories to make it truly shine!

We'd love to showcase the incredible work and passion of pharmacy technicians across the Midlands, and we're inviting you to share a short narrative and a photo (optional).

Tell us about:

What inspired you to become a pharmacy technician
What makes you proud of your profession
How you'll be celebrating the day
Or give us a glimpse into your career journey

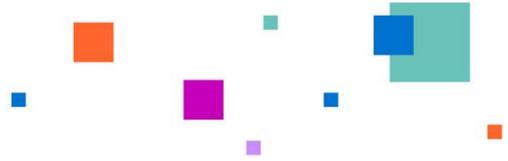
Your stories help us highlight the dedication, skill, and enthusiasm and they inspire others to feel that same pride and connection.

Please send your submissions by the 17th October to: bianca.payton@nhs.net using this [template](#).

Recent Changes to the Selected List Scheme via DHSC

Erectile Dysfunction Medications

We wrote to you in late May to ask for informal feedback on a proposal to remove two erectile dysfunction medications – generic tadalafil and vardenafil – from the Selected List Scheme (SLS), which is found in Part XVIII B of the NHS Drug Tariff.



The department's rationale for removing them from the SLS was that both medications are widely available as generics since their branded originators – Cialis and Levitra, respectively – lost patent protection in recent years and therefore the cost of each medicine has fallen significantly.

Further to the feedback we received on this proposal, and further engagement carried out with other stakeholders, we are pleased to share that we were granted ministerial approval to proceed with this legislative change and a statutory instrument (SI) to amend the SLS was laid on 1st September 2025. This change will take effect from tomorrow (1st October 2025).

The SI removes tadalafil and vardenafil from the list of restricted treatments for erectile dysfunction and adds Cialis and Levitra in their place. We took the decision to add Cialis and Levitra due to the comparatively higher cost of branded medicines and to support the NHS policy of prescribing generically. You can view the SI through the following link: [The National Health Service \(General Medical Services Contracts\) \(Prescription of Drugs etc.\)](#)

We expect sildenafil to remain the first line treatment option for erectile dysfunction on formularies; however, we hope this change will benefit those patients who do not tolerate sildenafil – or for whom it is not appropriate – as they will now be able to access a greater range of treatment options in primary care without prescribing restrictions, subject to the clinical decision of their medical practitioner.

If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to contact the Prescribing Policy team using prescribingpolicy@dhsc.gov.uk

Flu antivirals

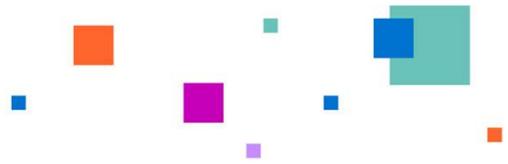
The SLS has also been amended to remove current seasonal prescribing restrictions on oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®). This change has been led by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), with support from departmental medicines colleagues.

This change will enable primary care prescribers in England to prescribe influenza neuraminidase inhibitor antivirals – oseltamivir and zanamivir – via standard prescription and dispensing routes all year round, and not just within the period in which the Chief Medical and Pharmaceutical Officers have advised influenza is circulating in the community.

Changes to regulations will improve the efficiency of the process for antiviral prescription, helping improve out-of-season access to antiviral treatment. Please note prophylaxis provision remains a commissioned service.

Following a period of policy development and stakeholder engagement, ministerial approval was granted to proceed with the proposed legislative change. This change was made jointly with the changes to prescribing of erectile dysfunction medication and will also come into force tomorrow (1st October 2025). You can view the SI here: [The National Health Service \(General Medical Services Contracts\) \(Prescription of Drugs etc.\) \(Amen...](#)

If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to contact the UK Health Security Agency by email to jenny.mccormick@ukhsa.gov.uk



Supply issues: Extended Estradot® SSPs

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has extended the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) Estradot® 50micrograms/24hours patches (SSP079), Estradot® 75micrograms/24hours patches (SSP080), Estradot® 100micrograms/24hours patches (SSP081) and Estradot® 25micrograms/24hours patches (SSP082).

All four SSPs will now remain in effect until Friday, 5th December 2025.

[Read more](#)

Tier 2 medicine supply notifications

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued Tier 2 medicine supply notifications for the following:

[Dalivit® Oral Drops](#)

[Exenatide \(Bydureon® BCise® \) 2mg/0.85ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled pen](#)

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



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USEFUL LINKS:

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline Tracker](#)

[CPE CPCF Important Dates](#)

[Price Concessions](#)

[Virtual Outcomes - Pharmacy Training](#)