



## COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE GENERAL UPDATE 18th December 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.

**Please note a separate Services Update was emailed to pharmacies on 16<sup>th</sup> December. You can find a copy of it [here](#).**

### LOCAL/LPC NEWS

#### Pharmacy Opening Hours: Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays

Please find below details of pharmaceutical provision across Herefordshire and Worcestershire for the upcoming **Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays**:

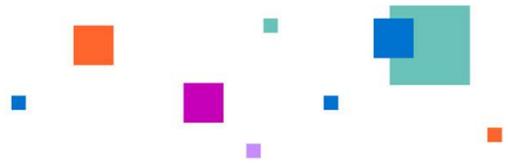
- 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Additional pharmacies may also be open on this date, and this can be confirmed via the [NHS.UK](#) website, where pharmacies can be located by completing a postcode search [Find a pharmacy – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Pharmacy premises must exhibit a notice, based on information provided by the Office of the West Midlands, of times when the premises are not open. Where practicable the notice should be legible from outside the pharmacy premises, specifying the addresses of other NHS pharmacies and the days on which and times at which drugs and appliances may be obtained from those addresses.

A printable A4 sheet for Herefordshire and Worcestershire can be downloaded [here](#).

**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.**



## LPC Support During the Festive Period

The LPC Team will be off during Christmas week from 24th – 28th December and 1st January. If you have any queries, please check our [website](#) first as that may answer your question, or send us an email to [ahwlpc@gmail.com](mailto:ahwlpc@gmail.com) and it will be picked up on the next available working day.

## Reminder: Patient Choice for Pharmacy EPS Nominations

Pharmacy owners and teams are reminded that patient choice is fundamental under NHS Terms of Service: **nominations must only be made with explicit consent**, and patients can change their nominated pharmacy freely. This includes where a pharmacy has closed, temporarily closed, relocated, changed ownership or newly opened. Please ensure that changes are only made at the patient's request, as we have had a lot of concerns raised across the Midlands including in our LPC areas. It is causing a lot of extra work and confusion for patients when their medication is not at the pharmacy they expect. It is always leading to a number of formal complaints.

A comprehensive list of resources relating to nominations can be found on our website [here](#).

## Paxlovid Ordering Over Christmas

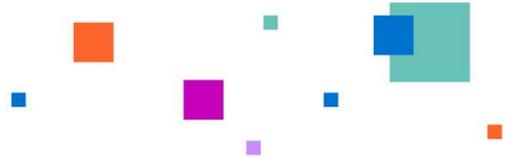
There is no stock holding agreement in place for Paxlovid, and due to its high cost, it is not expected that pharmacies order in advance of the holiday period.

If a prescription is received, stock is available to order from **Alliance Healthcare tel. 0344 8547749** but usual holiday delivery timescales will apply. It is important to make patients aware of this before ordering. If there are any issues with stock availability on the ordering screen then please escalate via: **Pfizer Customer Services tel. 0345 6088866**

## REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

### Flu Vaccine Stock Availability

Reports in the media have suggested that pharmacies across England are running low on flu vaccines, with potential shortages of appointments in some areas. Reports indicate a very contagious flu could make this winter the worst yet, with more people seeking vaccination.



While there is no national shortage, there have been isolated reports of pharmacies struggling to obtain stock and this was flagged to DHSC and NHS England. NHS England has since assured pharmacy owners that flu vaccine stocks remain available to order. Find out more on CPE [here](#).

## C-19 & Adult Flu Vaccination: Joint 2026/27 Service Specification Published

- New joint service specification for COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations published.
- COVID-19 vaccinations become an Advanced service.
- Fees for both vaccinations uplifted, but additional fee for housebound patients removed.
- Pharmacy owners must use the National Booking Service (NBS) for COVID-19 vaccinations, but this is still not a requirement for flu.
- Registration for spring COVID-19 campaign opens from 5th January, and pharmacy owners must register by 2nd February 2026 to guarantee supplies in time for the start of the spring season.

Find details on CPE [here](#).

## CPE Sector Poll: Patient Abuse and Other Challenges

Community pharmacy owners are being asked to share their experiences of patient abuse towards them and their teams, and other challenges, as the Community Pharmacy England Committee prepares for its first meeting of 2026.

[Complete the survey and learn more about this poll](#)

## PPE launches Digital healthcare learning gateway

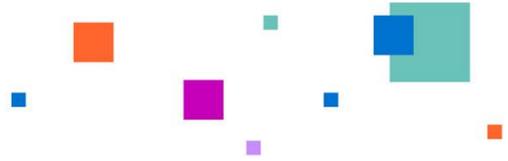
The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a [Digital healthcare learning gateway](#), designed to help pharmacy teams build the confidence and skills needed for today's rapidly evolving digital NHS.

The learning gateway is suitable for all pharmacy teams, covering key areas such as clinical informatics, health data, electronic patient records, cyber security and digital decision support tools.

[Find out more](#)

## Media Training: Become an Ambassador for Community Pharmacy

CPE is offering a training opportunity to pharmacy owners and team members on giving media interviews and handling the press. If this is something you would be interested, please find details on the CPE website [here](#).



## Dispensing and Supply Updates from CPE

- [Rolled over price concessions for December 2025](#)
- [6 products re-classified as special containers from December 2025](#)
- [Use of 'FS' endorsement extended to Tuberculosis \(TB\) treatments](#)
- [SSPs for Estradot® patches further extended](#)
- [Field Safety Notice: FreeStyle Libre 3 and FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus Sensors](#)
- [DHSC publishes medicines shortages leaflets and posters](#)
- [Class 4 Medicines Defect Notification: Amitriptyline hydrochloride tablets \(Flamingo Pharma UK Ltd\)](#)
- [Medicine Supply Notification: Nifedipine \(Fortipine® LA\) 40mg modified-release tablets](#)
- [Tresiba® \(insulin degludec\) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml prefilled pens](#)
- [Fiasp® FlexTouch® \(insulin aspart\) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)
  
- [Dispensing Factsheet: Expensive items](#)
- [Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Disallowed items](#)
- [Drug Tariff Watch – December 2025](#)

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



Continued...



We'd like to wish all Pharmacy Teams in Herefordshire and Worcestershire a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you all for your hard work throughout 2025.

The LPC Team

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**USEFUL LINKS:**

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline Tracker](#)

[CPE CPCF Important Dates](#)

[Price Concessions](#)