

COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE GENERAL UPDATE 19th February 2026

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

Reminder: The Orange Button Scheme and Time to Talk Day 2026

Partners from across the system are coming together to shine a light on the Orange Button Scheme throughout February – starting with Time to Talk Day!

We're sharing information about the Orange Button Scheme to promote open conversations around mental health using these resources:

[Herefordshire & Worcestershire Orange Button Community Scheme – Resource Library.](#)

There are now over 1,000 people across Herefordshire and Worcestershire wearing an orange button – they are trained to listen if you're finding life tough or are worried about someone. They can share information and resources that can help. More information on our website [here](#).

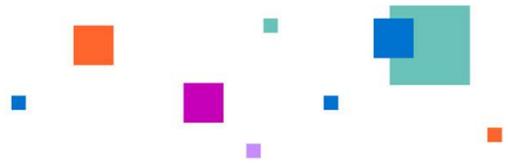
REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

Reminder: NHS Sexual Safety Charter

Whilst not a mandatory requirement, the NHS Sexual Safety Charter and completion of a self-assessment checklist against the Charter's principles have been developed as support for NHS organisations and may help pharmacy owners get ahead of incoming amendments to the Employment Rights Act. [Learn more](#)

NHSE requests that all primary care providers take the following steps by **31st March**:

- Sign up to the 10 principles of the [Sexual Safety Charter](#)
- Complete the [primary care self-assurance checklist](#) to evidence awareness and compliance with legal duties to prevent sexual harassment
- By 31st March, confirm via this [national online form](#) that the provider is signed up to the Charter and has completed the checklist.



GDPR themed scam emails

Community Pharmacy England has issued advice about GDPR-themed scam emails being sent to some pharmacy teams.

Pharmacies are encouraged to be cautious and to verify the source of any suspicious and unexpected messages, especially those asking for information or urgent action. The update includes examples of what to look out for and links to further guidance.

You can find details [here](#).

Further guidance on cyber security can be found [here](#).

Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag: New Information Standard

The NHS has introduced a new [Information Standard](#) for the RAF. This sets out how health and care providers should record and share information about the reasonable adjustments that people with disabilities may need.

NHS England issued a communication across the health sector setting out that health and care providers might:

- Make use of the RAF, where appropriate, by 30th September 2026.
- Check whether their IT systems – or the National Care Records Service ([NCRS](#)) – can provide access to the RAF. NCRS is already accessible to all community pharmacies.

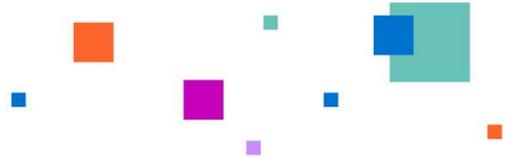
NHS England's pharmacy team have said that pharmacy owners do not need to contact their IT system suppliers at this stage. NHS England plans to send further pharmacy-specific communications directly to pharmacy owners.

More information on CPE [here](#).

Midlands Foundation Pharmacy Newsletter and Slide Deck

Please find attached the February 2026 edition of the [Midlands Foundation Pharmacy Newsletter](#) and accompanying [Slide Deck](#).

This month's update includes highlights from the recent Supervisor Support Session, as well as key programme information for employers and supervisors. You will also find details of upcoming events covering E portfolio, Educator, and Oriol support. Please refer to the Events section in the newsletter to ensure you don't miss any relevant opportunities.



GPhC guidance on pharmacy change of ownership requirements

This is an important reminder for pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists that it is a legal requirement to notify the GPhC within 28 days of a pharmacy's change of ownership, by submitting a change of ownership notification form. If this does not happen within 28 days, GPhC has to remove the pharmacy from the register, which means the pharmacy would have to close until it has been restored onto the register.

GPhC has written to pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists to remind them of this requirement:

[Important guidance on pharmacy change of ownership requirements](#)

Please also ensure any Change of Ownership application is followed via the PSCE process outlined [here](#).

Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026 now open

Community Pharmacy England has launched its fifth annual Pharmacy Pressures Survey, and they are keen to hear from all pharmacy owners and staff. The responses received each year are invaluable and help CPE push for vital changes, using the latest evidence to strengthen our case and support the sector.

The survey is open until 16th March 2026 to allow plenty of time for colleagues across pharmacy to respond.

[Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026](#)

Stress Management and Resilience Workshop

Don't miss CPE's stress management and resilience building online workshop on **Thursday 26th February 2026, 7.15pm – 9pm**.

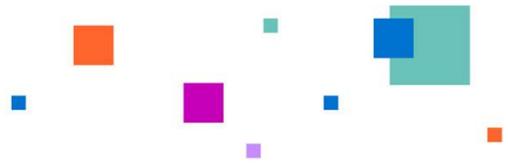
Offered through [Pharmacist Support](#), this workshop will explore wellbeing and building resilience. It will introduce techniques for managing feelings of pressure, including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), and encourage participants to identify and build on their strengths, focus on positive thinking and self-reflection, and provide helpful tips to enhance resilience and wellbeing.

[Book your place here](#)

CPE Funding and Reimbursements Shorts

CPE's in-house Drug Tariff and regulatory experts have released a new video guide that clarifies how and when to claim for extra costs incurred when obtaining products for supply against NHS prescriptions.

[Watch the video here](#)



Important Dates for 2026

Don't forget to check the CPE website for upcoming important dates [here](#).

Advance payment timetable for 2026

CPE has published an Advanced Payment Timetable for 2026, which you can find [here](#).

Latest Supply Issues: Shortages and SSPs

You can find all the latest supply notifications and SSPs [here](#).

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](#)