



## COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE GENERAL UPDATE 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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

#### Printed resources sent to all pharmacies in Herefordshire and Worcestershire

The LPC is posting some printed resources to pharmacies across Herefordshire and Worcestershire this week. They include NHS app advertising materials, wire-bound Clinical Pathways, Pharmacy Contraceptive Service posters and a one-page guide for OTC referral into Pharmacy First Service clinical pathways. Please look out for this package arriving in the post shortly.

Digital copies can be downloaded below:

[NHS App General Poster](#)

[Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways](#)

[Counter Staff Pharmacy First Service Referral Guide](#)

[PCS Poster 1](#)

[PCS Poster 5](#)

[PCS Poster 7](#)

We hope you'll find these resources useful.

#### Cranstoun Pharmacy Training Event

Cranstoun are hosting a training evening in March aimed at the pharmacies in Worcester City and surrounding areas. Please feel free to share with any of your contacts, all welcome! Event details below:-

**Date:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

**Time:** 6PM-8PM

**Trainers:** Steven Glazzard (Harm Reduction Operations Manager) & Richard Canter (Outreach Non-Medical Prescriber)

**Location:** Upstairs training room at our premises Castle House, [14 Castle Street, Worcester, WR1 3AD](#).

**Refreshments:** Refreshments including a light dinner will be provided. Please notify us of any dietary requirements or allergies.

**Topics will include:**

- Working with individuals who use drugs in the Pharmacy setting (common health issues such as wound care at injecting sites, presentation, withdrawals etc)
- Opiate substitute awareness

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**LPC Office: Unit 24 Basepoint Business Centre; Crab Apple Way, Vale Park, Evesham, WR11 1GP**

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- Why do people use drugs

**Please note:** The training will only go ahead if there are enough people booked on. **Please RSVP by responding to [lafinnegan@cranstoun.org.uk](mailto:lafinnegan@cranstoun.org.uk) with details of how many people from your pharmacy would like to attend by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.** This session is suitable for **all members of staff within the pharmacy.**

## REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

### Joint 2026/27 service spec published for COVID-19 & Adult Flu Vacs, with fee uplifts from April 2026

Summary:

- New joint service specification for COVID-19 and adult Flu vaccinations published.
- Fees for both vaccinations uplifted, but additional fee for housebound patients removed.
- Pharmacy owners must use the National Booking Service for COVID-19 vaccinations, but this is still not a requirement for flu.
- Registration now a requirement for both services for the 2026/27 vaccination season.

Following discussions with Community Pharmacy England, NHS England has today published [a new service specification](#) that covers the provision of both seasonal COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations in community pharmacy during the 2026/27 season.

Pharmacy owners can offer both COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations, or just adult flu.

NHS England has also confirmed in a [system letter](#) an increase to service fees: adult flu rises from £9.58 to £10.06, COVID-19 vaccinations are £8.70 per vaccine administered, while the flu vaccination campaign is underway, and £10.06 outside of this. There will no longer be a £10 payment for COVID-19 vaccinations for housebound people.

[Read the full news story for further details, registration details and deadlines](#)

### 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:



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

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

## 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.

## 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](#)

## Changes to the reporting of Temporary Suspensions

From 1 June 2026, the Manage Your Service (MYS) will be the only route to notify ICBs of temporary suspensions/closures.

This week, NHS England announced that it was giving advance notice of changes to the approved manner of [reporting temporary suspensions of service or likely temporary suspensions of service \(temporary closures\)](#) to ICBs. The changes will be made to the approved particulars for 1 June.

NHS England indicated that, currently, pharmacy owners can report via the Manage Your Service (MYS) platform or send an email notification to their ICB. However, from 1 June, MYS will be the only submission method, and pharmacy owners must use it from that date. Once reported via MYS, pharmacy owners do not need to follow up with an email or further notification to their ICB.

The Terms of Service require NHS community pharmacy owners to have a [business continuity plan for temporary suspensions/closures](#) due to illness or other reasons beyond their control and to action the plan when necessary. One of the required actions in the event of a temporary suspension/closure is to notify your ICB.



The MYS portal has been available to notify temporary suspensions/closures since September 2024. It can be updated with one or more temporary suspensions and remains editable for 7 days after submission. The submission can also be deleted if there is no subsequent suspension/closure.

More information on managing unplanned temporary suspensions (including resources to prepare for these) can be found on our [temporary suspensions/closures page](#).

## 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.



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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### USEFUL LINKS:

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline  
Tracker](#)

[CPE CPCF Important Dates](#)

[Price Concessions](#)