



COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE GENERAL UPDATE 9th APRIL 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

Bank Holiday Opening Intentions - EOI 31st August 2026

Pursuant to paragraph 35(3)(b) of Schedule 4 to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local, Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, as amended, please provide your proposed opening time for the following bank and public holiday: August Bank Holiday – 31st August 2026

Please use MS form below for this. Please note this form is to be used to give details of your intended opening times for the August Bank holiday only.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Tmh31hHPq5?origin=lprLink>

Bank Holiday Rota Expression of Interest

Please use MS form below to express an interest to be included in a bank holiday rota for August Bank holiday only.

<https://forms.office.com/e/405ZV2AwmA>

This is an opportunity to express an interest in opening under Direction on 31st August 2026. This is an expression of interest for consideration only and submission does not guarantee that you will be Directed to open.

Bank holiday direction Rota

NHS England has a duty to ensure that there is adequate pharmacy provision over all bank and public holidays (including Easter Sunday). If NHS England believe that there is not adequate provision we may issue directions to one or more pharmacies, requiring them to open.

Please note, that if you are issued with a Direction to open on 31st August 2026, the payment will be paid at £275 (per hour). Head Offices/Corporates – a spreadsheet sent under separate cover with a list of opening intentions will be accepted.

Please complete by 5th May 2026.

Government guidance for Neighbourhoods

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) are being introduced locally. These are collaborative groups formed to address the comprehensive health and wellbeing needs of local populations. As an Introduction to these new systems of working please take the time to view the [Government guidance for Neighbourhoods](#)

We also have a page on our website dedicated to INTs/Neighbourhoods: [INTs – Herefordshire and Worcestershire LPC](#)



Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group launches new Bank Holiday resources

The Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group (CPPSG) has released two resources aimed at supporting community pharmacy teams with Opioid Treatment Programmes:

- “Focus on Methadone”, video resource: designed for community pharmacy professionals, the video provides practical hints and tips to support the safe supply of methadone through an opioid treatment programme, reinforcing best practice standards across the sector.
- Bank Holiday checklist, to aid pharmacy teams delivering opioid treatment programmes before, during and after Bank Holidays.

The checklist and video are now available, along with CPPSG’s other patient safety resources [via the CPPSG Resource Hub](#).

The resources are aimed at pharmacy team members involved in delivering opioid treatment programmes:

- Focus on Methadone video – [watch now](#)
- Bank Holiday Checklist – opioid treatment programmes – [download now](#)

REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

Pharmacy Contraception Service – Key Reminder

Please ensure patients are supplied with *at least 6 months* of oral contraception where clinically appropriate.

- ◆ This aligns with national service requirements
- ◆ Supports continuity of care and adherence
- ◆ Reduces unnecessary repeat consultations and system pressure
- ◆ Improves patient convenience and outcomes

Only supply less than 6 months if there is a clear clinical reason (e.g. new start, side effects monitoring, clinical uncertainty)

- Routine repeat supply = 6 month minimum.

Final call for pressures experiences

There are just a few days left to report your experiences of the intense challenges facing community pharmacy. [Pressures Survey extended: We're awaiting your response - Community Pharmacy England](#) is your chance to feed into a national evidence base on medicine supply, workforce issues, workload, stress, and patient demand. The daily reality can only be accurately represented if as many owners and team members as possible respond.

By taking part before 10am on Monday 13th April, you can help demonstrate pharmacy’s struggles and strengthen the case put to policymakers. Your stories will form an important dataset to build support from politicians, the public, and NHS leaders.



[Business Owners Survey - 2026 Pharmacy Pressures Survey: Business Owners/Head Office](#)
[Pharmacy Teams Survey - 2026 Pharmacy Pressures Survey: Team Members](#)

[C-19 LFD service: commissioning continues through 2026/27](#)

The Lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments (LFD service) will continue to be commissioned as an Advanced service through 2026/27.

NHS England has agreed the fee for provision of the service will increase to £4.19 + VAT from 1st April 2026, following a request from Community Pharmacy England for an increase in the fee to reflect inflationary pressures.

[Read more about the LFD service and view the support materials available to help you provide the service](#)

[NHS prescription charges remain at £9.90](#)

Pharmacy teams are reminded that the NHS prescription charge remains at **£9.90 per prescription item for 2026/27**.

A [Government press release](#) (released on 21/11/2025) previously confirmed that the NHS prescription charge would be frozen for 2026/27, as well as the costs for prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs).

The list of 2026/27 prescription-related charges are outlined below.

NHS charges for	2026/27
Single prescription charge	£9.90
PPC 3-month	£32.05
PPC 12-month	£114.50
HRT PPC	£19.80

Community Pharmacy England has produced the following posters to support community pharmacies in displaying the prescription charge.

[Prescription Charge Card 2026/27 \(colour\)](#)

[Prescription Charge Card 2026/27 \(black and white\)](#)

[PPC Poster 2026/27 \(colour\)](#)

[PPC Poster 2026/27 \(black and white\)](#)

PPCs offer savings for those needing multiple prescription items or when a patient is prescribed a listed HRT medicine. Further information about the NHS prescription charge, PPCs and other resources can be found [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.



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](#)

[Price Concessions](#)