



COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE GENERAL UPDATE 23rd 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

[New Patient-Facing Website for Community Pharmacy Herefordshire and Worcestershire](#)

We have a new patient-facing website for Community Pharmacy Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Pharmacy website serves as an online hub connecting residents with local pharmacy services across the two counties. It provides information on accessing NHS-funded pharmacy care, including support for minor illnesses, prescription services, and community health initiatives. The site is designed to help people understand what their local pharmacies offer, how to get timely advice from qualified professionals, and how pharmacy services fit into wider regional healthcare pathways.

Please visit the website on the link below:

<https://www.pharmacyherefordshireandworcestershire.co.uk/>

[Pharmacy Bank Holiday Opening Hours for May 2026](#)

Please find attached details of pharmaceutical provision across Herefordshire and Worcestershire for **the May 2026 Bank Holidays**:

- Early May Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026
- Spring Bank Holiday Monday 25th May 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 [here](#).

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.

[Download a printable A4 sheet for Herefordshire and Worcestershire](#)

[Your INT Ambassador](#)

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) are being introduced locally. These are collaborative groups formed to address the comprehensive health and wellbeing needs of local populations. The LPC are pleased to introduce your INT Ambassadors:



Name	INT area
Manisha Sharma	Worcestershire
Gareth Lam	Herefordshire

This is a professional liaison role, connecting pharmacies, LPCs, ICBs, and INT leadership. Your Ambassadors have strong knowledge of local demographics and community pharmacy services and will facilitate discussions among stakeholders and share information about current and potential community pharmacy services.

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

REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

[SPS Medicine Supply Tool](#)

The NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) provides the Medicines Supply Tool, a key resource for healthcare professionals managing medicine shortages and supply issues. It offers up to date information, guidance on alternatives, and practical advice to support safe and effective patient care across the NHS. Pharmacies can now sign up to SPS, with the Pharmacy NHS email through the following link: [Medicines Supply Tool – NHS SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

[Pharmacy First Reminder - Latest Versions of Clinical Pathways and PGDs](#)

The clinical pathways and PGDs were updated in September 2025 (current versions [here](#)). Key changes to the clinical pathways included updates to Gateway points, with some criteria adjusted and additional Gateway points introduced, making it more likely that a consultation fee can be claimed for a wider range of patients.

For example, within the sinusitis pathway, the requirement for patients to have symptoms for 10 days before passing the Gateway point was removed. Now, patients presenting with sinusitis symptoms can pass the Gateway regardless of symptom duration.

[Launch of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme \(CPTAP\) 2026.](#)

This programme supports Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians (PTPTs) to be employed and complete a two-year apprenticeship training programme within a community pharmacy setting. On successful completion of training and registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), pharmacy technicians will be well placed to support service delivery and wider healthcare priorities within community pharmacy.



Funding Offer - NHSE are offering a financial training contribution of £15,505 per PTPT, per year for the two-year training period. This contribution supports sites in developing an employer-led, work-based training programme that meets GPhC initial education and training (IET) [standards for pharmacy technicians](#) and the NHS England [Education Quality Framework](#) Education Quality Framework (accessed via the National School of Healthcare Science website).

Next Steps Application of Funding (AoF) requests must be submitted via the [online application form](#). The application window will open on Monday 27 April 2026 until Monday 18 May 2026, at midday. To apply for funding in the Midlands [click here](#).

National stakeholder engagement sessions will be held via MS Teams to provide further information on the programme, including the application process and how to access apprenticeship funding. Use the link below to attend your preferred date. You only need to attend one session.

Tuesday 21 April, 12pm to 12.30pm [Click here to register](#)

Thursday 23 April, 8pm to 8.30pm [Click here to register](#)

Regional stakeholder engagement sessions will also take place on the following dates and times. Use the link below to attend your preferred date. You only need to attend one session.

Monday 27 April, 3.00pm to 4.00pm [Click here to register](#)

Thursday 30 April, 1.00pm to 2.00pm [Click here to register](#)

Wednesday 13 May 11.00 to 12.00am [Click here to register](#)

Guidance to support completion of an application, along with further programme information, is available on [website](#). If you have any questions, please email england.wtepharmacy.mids@nhs.net with Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2026 in the subject field.

[Income Support & Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance Exemptions Ending April 2026](#)

From 15th April 2026, Income Support (Box H) and Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (Box K) will no longer be valid exemption categories for NHS prescription charges, as part of the move from legacy benefits to Universal Credit. NHS stationery and pharmacy IT systems will be updated in due course. More information is available [here](#).

CPE has asked NHSBSA for resources to help pharmacy teams explain this change to patients. At collection, patients should select the exemption category that applies to them at that time. If they're unsure, teams can signpost them to the [NHSBSA eligibility checker](#).

[Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2026: Deadline coming up](#)

CPE previously published updated guidance and support to help community pharmacy owners complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPTK) 2026.



Completing the Toolkit is how pharmacies make their annual information governance (IG) declaration. It is a mandatory requirement under the NHS Terms of Service and must be completed by 30th June 2026. For further information: [Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2026 workshop now on-demand - Community Pharmacy England](#)

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](#)