



## COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE

### GENERAL UPDATE 21<sup>st</sup> May 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: Patient Nominations

We would like to remind all community pharmacies about the appropriate practice of patient nominations. Please remember that Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) nominations must be patient-driven, ensuring informed consent is obtained, documented, and never automatic. Inappropriate, coerced, or automatic nomination changes are considered unprofessional, violating patient choice.

Links to resources around patient nominations can be found below:

[LPC Nominations Guidance February 2026](#)

[CPE Nomination of Patients \(EPS\) Webpage](#)

[CPE EPS Nominations & Patient Choice Guidance](#)

[CPE Reporting Suspicious Changes Guidance](#)

##### “Off label” use of spironolactone for treating acne vulgaris

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Medicines and Prescribing Committee has approved the “off label” use of spironolactone as an option for treating acne vulgaris in female patients (only) aged 18 or over in whom “*a (single) course of oral antibiotics has not cleared acne or it becomes recurrent*”. Prescribing information regarding the use of spironolactone is included in the updated acne vulgaris guidelines available on the ICB website – here: [HW Acne Vulgaris Prescribing Guidelines](#) and in the [Herefordshire & Worcestershire netFormulary](#). This will also be included in the “MPC CASC Decision Updates” document which is sent to community pharmacies.

##### CPE Regional Workshop, West Midlands – Tuesday 30th June 2026

CPE’s regional roadshows are back – designed not just to update you, but to give you clear, usable insight and a genuine say in what comes next for community pharmacy.



These interactive evening sessions bring you face-to-face with the negotiators representing you, cutting through the noise to focus on what matters most to your business and your patients right now.

**Why it's worth your time:**

Understand what's really happening: get candid, jargon-free updates on negotiations and sector pressures.

Take away practical insight: leave with a clearer view of what changes could mean for your pharmacy.

Influence the agenda: share your realities to help shape priorities and decisions.

Connect locally: compare challenges and approaches with peers facing the same pressures.

This isn't just a briefing – it's your opportunity to be informed, be heard, and help steer the future!

**Details for the West-Midlands event are as follows:**

Location: The National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Hampton in Arden B92 0EJ

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 30 • 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

[Book your place now](#)

**Community Pharmacy Herefordshire & Worcestershire Committee Meetings**

We welcome Contractors to attend open parts of our LPC Meetings and/or to send any questions to the LPC relating to agenda items or other issues that they might wish to raise. Our next two meetings are scheduled as below:

- 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Worcester Woods
- 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – Worcester Woods (AGM)

**Promoting Pharmacy First for Infected Insect Bites**

As the weather becomes warmer and more people spend time outdoors during the spring and summer months, the incidence of insect bites and stings is likely to increase. This presents a timely opportunity to raise awareness of the infected insect bites pathway available through Pharmacy First.

Over the coming months, pharmacies may wish to consider how they can proactively promote the service within their local communities and increase public awareness of when Pharmacy First can support patients with infected insect bites and stings. This could include the use of targeted seasonal messaging.

Pharmacies may also wish to utilise window displays, digital screens and social media channels to reinforce key messages and promote the Think Pharmacy First Campaign for common summer ailments. In addition, including promotional flyers in retail bags or alongside prescriptions may help further increased awareness and encourage appropriate use of the service. You can download the NHS A4 insect bite poster [here](#).

**Coming Soon: The CPPE ENT Practical Skills Event**



Join us for an interactive hands-on event focused on developing practical ENT assessment and examination skills. Gain valuable clinical experience, build confidence and learn from expert-led sessions designed to support everyday practice... More details coming soon.

## REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

### NMS myth busting series

This is the fourth of a series of articles to tackle some of the misconceptions around the New Medicine Service (NMS). The articles will cover a variety of aspects of NMS and aims to myth bust, to increase understanding of the service: [NMS myth busting series \(#4\) - Community Pharmacy England](#). Previous issues are available via the link.

### Midlands Foundation Pharmacy Newsletter - May 2026

Please find attached the May 2026 edition of the NHSE Midlands Foundation Pharmacy Newsletter and the slide deck. This month's update includes key relevant resources to support supervisors, e.g. DS Final sign off checklist, Trainee Support Guide, Onboarding information for the 26/27 cohort. Please refer to the Events section of the newsletter to ensure you don't miss out on any opportunities.

[NHSE WT&E Midlands Pharmacy](#)

[Midlands Foundation Pharmacy Newsletter - May 2026](#)

### Medicines packs with poor barcodes: NHS England survey – pharmacy input needed

Community Pharmacy England is hearing about more reports of missing, inaccurate or unscannable barcodes on medicines packs. Pharmacy teams have told us this can affect patient safety and pharmacy workload.

NHS England is now seeking further evidence from pharmacy teams as well as other parts of health and care to better understand the impact and possible actions. Please see the following link: [Medicines packs with poor barcodes: NHS England survey – pharmacy input needed - 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](#)