COMMUNITY PHARMACY HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE
GENERAL UPDATE 15th October 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.

NIHR Research Funding Opportunity for Community Pharmacies

The NIHR has launched its **Wider Care Settings Funding Programme 2027/28**, with applications now open for community-based healthcare organisations, including community pharmacies involved in NIHR-supported research.

Funding of between **£2,000 and £100,000** is available to support staff time dedicated to delivering approved NIHR research studies. The scheme is particularly relevant for pharmacies already participating in research and may help build research capacity within the sector.

Applications are completed online and close on **17 November 2026**. Pharmacies interested in applying can seek support from their local Regional Research Delivery Network. The RRDN contact email for the West Midlands is **wm.rrdn@nihr.ac.uk**

Additional assistance is also available through the Community Pharmacy Research Incubator Programme at the University of East Anglia. Email: **pharmacy.incubator@uea.ac.uk**

You can apply for the research grant **HERE**.

Prescribing Within the CPCF – Further Information Published

Further guidance has been published to support the introduction of independent prescribing within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF), planned for autumn. The newly available resources on the **NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website** include Prescription Management guidance and a new **Part VIF of the Drug Tariff**, outlining payments associated with prescribing.

These documents build on guidance published earlier this year, including the **Professional Assurance Framework** and commissioning guidance for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). Community Pharmacy England has updated its **Prescribing Within the CPCF webpage** with links to these latest documents and additional information highlighting key considerations. Pharmacy owners considering offering NHS prescribing services are encouraged to review the updated webpage to understand the requirements and plan the necessary preparations before signing up to provide these services.

Reminder: PQS Palliative Care Gateway Requirement

Pharmacy owners taking part in the **2026/27 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS)** must meet three Gateway requirements to qualify for a PQS payment:

- Complete the **Palliative Care Questionnaire**
- Be a **pharmacy palliative care medication stockholder**
- Develop an **action plan**

While most PQS requirements must be completed by 31 March 2027, the **Palliative Care Questionnaire** has an earlier deadline and must be submitted by **31 December 2026**.

Failure to complete the questionnaire by this date will mean pharmacy owners are **ineligible to claim a PQS payment**. In addition, any **Aspiration payment** claimed in July 2026 will be recovered by the **NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA)**.

What pharmacy owners need to do

- Complete and submit the Palliative Care Questionnaire via the NHSBSA's **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**.
- Keep the confirmation email received after submission as evidence that the questionnaire has been successfully completed.
- If a confirmation email is not received within one hour, check your junk folder first. If it is still missing, contact the NHSBSA Provider Assurance Team immediately at **pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk**.

Guidance on meeting the remaining two Gateway requirements is available on the **Community Pharmacy England PQS webpage**.

Summary: Pharmacy owners must complete the Palliative Care Questionnaire by **31 December 2026**. Missing this deadline will prevent a PQS claim and may result in recovery of any Aspiration payment received.

CPCF 2026/27 Mandatory National Health Campaign Underway

The first mandatory national health campaign for the 2026/27 Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) is now live and runs from **5 October to 25 October 2026**.

This campaign highlights the importance of treating pharmacy teams with respect, helping to ensure staff can work safely and continue providing high-quality care in the best interests of patients and colleagues.

What pharmacies need to do

Pharmacy owners are required to promote the campaign to the public throughout the campaign period, from **Monday 5 October to Sunday 25 October 2026**.

A range of campaign materials is available from NHS England and Community Pharmacy England to support promotion activities.

Ways to meet the campaign requirements

Pharmacies can support the campaign by sharing key messages with the public through a variety of channels, including:

- Displaying campaign posters within the pharmacy
- Publishing campaign information on the pharmacy website
- Sharing campaign content through the pharmacy's social media channels

By actively promoting the campaign, pharmacies can help raise awareness of the importance of respectful behaviour towards pharmacy teams and support a safer working environment for all.

New National Online Pathway to Support Headache Care

NHS England's Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme has launched the first national online pathway and decision-making tool for assessing and managing headaches in adults. The resource supports pharmacy and GP teams to deliver evidence-based care, with guidance on assessment, management and appropriate treatment options in line with national standards and may be particularly useful for pharmacists preparing to deliver the five prescribing-only pathways under Pharmacy First, as migraine is one of the included pathways. **Explore the GIRFT national headache pathway for adults here.**

There will be a **webinar** on **Wednesday 4 November 2026, 12.30pm–1.30pm,** hosted by Dr Niranjanan Nirmalananthan, GIRFT's joint clinical lead for neurology, to introduce the pathway and demonstrate how it can support clinical decision-making and evidence-based headache management. **Register for the webinar here.**

Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2026/27 clinical services audit: data submission now open

The Manage Your Service data collection tool (log in required) for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2026/27 clinical services audit is now open. Contractors must submit their anonymised audit data by 11.59pm on 31 March 2027 to claim Domain 2 – Professional Practice.

Submissions can be saved and completed later, but only submitted data is eligible for payment. The audit requires at least 10 unique patients receiving NHS Pharmacy First clinical pathways consultations. As the audit guidance sets out, contractors can audit clinical records retrospectively for consultations delivered since 1 April 2026.

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