

Community Pharmacy Brent & Harrow Newsletter Harrow

Stay up to date with the latest announcements from your LPC

Important Dates

1st May 2024

Pharmacy First: The activity threshold of clinical pathway consultations increases to a **minimum of 10 clinical pathways per month**. This means pharmacy owners have to provide a **minimum of 10 consultations that pass the gateway point** (as detailed in the clinical pathways) in May 2024 to be eligible for the £1,000 monthly payment. This target also applies to June 2024 and July 2024.

Action: Ensure pharmacy team members are aware of the increase in activity threshold and discuss actions that can support the team to reach the increased target.

Between 1st April and 30th June 2024

ToS: Pharmacy owners are required to verify and, where necessary, update the information contained in their **NHS website** profile **and** their **DoS** profile at least once each quarter of the financial year. The new quarter starts on 1st April and ends on 30th June 2024.

This is a mandatory requirement for all pharmacy owners.

Actions:

- Register for **NHS Profile Manager** with your personal NHSmail address if you haven't already.

- Once registered, update your NHS Profile Manager pharmacy profile; for each profile check that the pharmacy's opening times, contact information and services information are up to date or verify this information if it is correct (even if no changes have been made during the financial quarter, pharmacy owners must still verify this information using NHS Profile Manager as this creates a record which will act as evidence to NHS England that these actions have been undertaken)

30th June 2024

ToS: Final deadline to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPTK).

Action: If not completed, do so by the end of the day.

COVID-19: COVID-19 Spring 2024 booster campaign ends.

[Prescription charge to rise to £9.90 on 1st May 2024](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that from **1st May 2024**, the NHS prescription charge will **increase to £9.90 per prescription item** (note: some items may incur more than one charge). For **prescriptions dispensed in April 2024**, the NHS prescription charge will remain at £9.65.

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/prescription-charge-to-rise-to-9-90-on-1-may-2024/>

[CPE Briefing Event: Critical Pressures and the Future](#)

7th May 2024 7:00 PM

Online (please register for access link)

Community Pharmacy England is hosting a national engagement event for pharmacy owners. Building on our previous engagement events, this reflects our ongoing commitment to engage with pharmacy owners across the sector more actively. The event will provide pharmacy owners the opportunity to hear about key topics affecting community pharmacy, learn more about our work and progress in critical areas and share your views on the issues that matter most to you.

Register for the Engagement Event

Please note:

- Registration will close at 3pm on the day of the event.
- This event is for community pharmacy owners or their representatives, pharmacy team members and LPC teams only.
- It is not open to journalists so we can have frank and honest discussions with pharmacy owners.

Expanded Pharmacy Contraception Service

This expanded service that launched 1st December 2023 will enable pharmacists to initiate oral contraception, as well as continuing to provide ongoing management of oral contraception that was initiated in general practice or a sexual health clinic (or equivalent). In CPE's work with NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), other minor changes to the service specification and PGDs have been agreed.

19 pharmacies within Harrow are currently not registered for this service.

Updated service specification, PGDs and webinars can be found at the following link:

<https://cpe.org.uk/national-pharmacy-services/advanced-services/pharmacy-contraception-service/>

Pharmacy Contraception Service Webinar – Save the date

The Middlesex Group of LPCs are planning a Contraception Webinar to be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 between 7:30 and 9:00pm which will be repeated on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at the same time.

Full details and invite will be sent out closer to the time.

Pharmacy First

The service was **announced** as part of an agreement setting out how the £645 million investment pledged within the **Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care** will be used to support community pharmacy services.

The two previous elements of the **Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)** were incorporated into the Pharmacy First service.

1 pharmacy within Harrow are currently not registered for this service.

Pharmacy First Service Webinars – Save the date

The Middlesex Group of LPCs are planning 2 Pharmacy First Webinars to cover Clinical pathways for impetigo, shingles and infected insect bites on Tuesday 4th June and Clinical pathways for sore throat, acute sinusitis, and UTI on Thursday 13th June 2024 between 7:30 and 9:30pm

Full details and invite will be sent out closer to the time.

Virtual Outcome - Free Access

Reminder that you have free access to the pharmacy training platform Virtual Outcomes, more information can be found at the below link:

<https://www.virtualoutcomes.co.uk/vo8539-wp-content/uploads/2020/06/VirtualOutcomes-Login-Easy-Guide-May-19.pdf>

Expanded Hypertension Case Finding Service

From 1st December 2023, suitably trained and competent pharmacy staff (pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other non-registered members of the pharmacy team) can provide the service; currently it can only be provided by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician.

Please see below link for the updated service specification and PGDs:

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-updated-service-spec-published-2/>

6 pharmacies within Harrow are currently not registered for this service.

For more information see [Hypertension Case-Finding Service - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](https://cpe.org.uk)

Register to provide the service at the NHSBSA [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) application](#)

Reminder for Hypertension Case Finding Service – ABPM Checks

Reminder to all contractors: Where the clinic blood pressure measurements are 140/90mmHg or higher but less than 180/120mmHg, then ABPM should be offered to the patient in a timely manner. For example, either on the same day as the clinic reading where an ABPM device is available, as soon as convenient to the patient, or as soon as an ABPM device will become available. **GPs must be notified by email each time an ABPM check is carried out as part of the Hypertension Case Finding Service.**

Please see service specification at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PRN00173-adv-service-spec-nhs-community-pharmacy-hypertension-case-finding-advanced-service-v2.3.pdf>

Test results, including 'normal' clinic readings (BP \geq 90/60mmHg and <140/90mmHg), should be sent on a minimum of a weekly basis, or as locally agreed, to general practices for patients who complete the service that week and do not need a referral. These results should be sent at the end of each week with a standardised title, e.g. 'WEEKLY SUMMARY OF BP MEASUREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO PATIENT RECORDS'.

The service specification must be complied with in all respects.

Hypertension Case-Finding Service reminder (#1): Maximising the use of my team

This is the first of a series of articles to help pharmacy owners and their teams to maximise the potential of the Hypertension Case-finding Service (HCFS).

The re-launch of the service, including the ability to use the wider pharmacy team to provide parts of the service, allows pharmacy owners to review how they provide the service and this series of articles will focus on a range of topics to support you in doing that.

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/hypertension-case-finding-service-reminder-1-maximising-the-use-of-my-team/>

First Steps Nutrition have just released a new booklet:
Eating well: 6 months to 2 years for South Asian Children

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59f75004f09ca48694070f3b/t/65fa12e3027ea77561dcecde/1710887682717/Eating+well+6+months+to+2+years+For+South+Asian+children+NEON+Recipe+Book+final+version%2C+web.pdf>

Top tips to maximise dispensing income

Community Pharmacy England has prepared a new factsheet to help pharmacy owners maximise their income from dispensing. The factsheet includes top tips to help maximise income or reduce losses when:

Dispensing
Ordering
Endorsing prescriptions
Submitting claims/prescriptions for payment (including end-of-month MYS declaration)
Reconciling payments against claims submitted

The factsheet also links to a wealth of resources available on the Community Pharmacy England website for more information on specific topic areas which can be accessed as needed.

CPEs new factsheet attached.

Revised Schedule of Payments expected in April

The look of your monthly Schedule of Payments (and eSchedules) is changing from **April 2024**. The next payment schedule due to be received on the **23 April (for February 2024 dispensing month)** will have several improvements including:

- Breakdown of Pharmacy First payments, alongside activity data relating to this
 - Total reimbursement and discount deduction split by generics/brands/appliances rates and between prescriptions and Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway items
- VAT information for products supplied under Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways

- The split of consumable and container allowances between prescriptions and Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway items
- The split of patient levies between prescriptions and Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway items

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has now published an example of the new look payment schedule / eSchedule on their [website](#).

Example Pharmacy First Schedule (PDF: 81.3KB)

Example Pharmacy First E-Schedule (ZIP: 108KB) – this file contains an e-Schedule Map and a sample e-Schedule

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/revised-schedule-of-payments-expected-in-april/>

Drug Tariff Watch – April 2024

The **Drug Tariff Preface** published monthly, lists additions, deletions and other changes to products listed in the Drug Tariff. Below is a summary of the **changes coming into effect from 1 April 2024**.

<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-april-2024/>

We here at the LPC office support all MPG contractors and pharmacy teams. We would love to hear any feedback you may have about your LPC and if there is anything you would like raised at our next committee meeting.

Let us know on group@middlesexpharmacy.org

Join the Harrow LPC WhatsApp Alert Group

Please see the below link to join our LPC WhatsApp alert group (if not joined already) or scan the QR Code on your smartphone

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/J9lkV4DcixN31nZ9REzVzi>

