

Community Pharmacy Brent & Harrow Newsletter

Community Pharmacy Harrow — Stay up to date with the latest LPC updates and service deadlines

October 2025

Pharmacy Contraception Service

PCS: 29th October 2025 NHS England has confirmed that the expansion of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service to include oral emergency contraception will GO LIVE on Wednesday 29 October 2025.

The clinical systems will be ready for contractors to use on Wednesday 29 October 2025.

Pharmacy contractors can access the specification and PGDs for the expanded service at [NHS England » NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service](#)

Contractors are reminded to:

- Ensure that any pharmacists and pharmacy technicians delivering the service are competent to do so and have demonstrated their competence in line with 5.2 of the [NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service specification](#)
- Ensure all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians delivering the service have declared that they have read and understood the Patient Group Directions and agree to supply medication(s) listed only in accordance with the PGDs

- Check, and where required, update the profile manager status for this service. NB – There will be one NHS Pharmacy Contraception service on profile manager that will cover all three elements of the service (Initiation and ongoing supply of oral contraception and supply of oral Emergency Contraception).

[Read more](#)



NMS

NMS: 29TH October 2025 confirmed date for the service to expand to include depression as an eligible therapeutic area. made on schedule.

The main changes to the NMS are:

- It will expand to include depression as an eligible therapeutic area. This is reflected in the updated service specification and NMS Eligible Drug List.
- Wording in the service specification regarding the timing of Intervention and Follow up consultations has also been amended, so the Intervention consultation is provided between 7-14 days after recruitment and the Follow up consultation is between 14-21 days after the Intervention consultation. The previous wording said consultations would 'typically take place between those time periods'. There is, however, also an ability for the pharmacist to agree consultations outside those periods on an exceptional basis, e.g. if a patient is on holiday.
- The service specification has been amended to include the clarification on subcontracting of the service not being allowed, which was **highlighted to all pharmacy owners** at the time of the CPCF settlement announcement in March.



Draft versions of the updated service documents have been available on the NHSBSA website since August to provide advance notice of the changes to the service for pharmacy owners and their teams. A final version of the service specification has now been published on the [NHS website](#) to again provide advance notice ahead of the service being expanded.

[Read more](#)

Pharmacy First Service

Pharmacy First: 1st October 2025 Date for commencement of use of the new clinical pathways and PGDs for the service. NHS England will confirm the commencement date nearer the time, via their [Primary Care Bulletin](#), subject to receiving confirmation that the necessary changes to the clinical IT systems will be made on schedule.

IT system suppliers are planning to amend their existing systems to incorporate the updates to the service on the night of 30th September 2025, so that from 1st October 2025, the updated service can be provided in accordance with the updated service documentation.

The updated documentation will be published on the NHS England website on 1st October 2025.

Action: Ensure you have read the DRAFT versions of the clinical pathways and PGDs by this date

Campaign details

All pharmacies will need to participate in both the campaigns, using relevant materials to promote the Pharmacy First service to the public.

The timings for the campaigns are:

- Monday **20th October 2025** to Sunday **9th November 2025**; and
- Monday **2nd February 2026** to Sunday **22nd February 2026**.

The first campaign will take place alongside an NHS England advertising campaign promoting Pharmacy First to the public.

The NHS England advertising campaign will, with some minor updates, be based on the creative content used in the last two national [Think Pharmacy First campaigns](#).

Updated digital materials that pharmacies can download and use to promote Pharmacy First will be made available on the [DHSC Campaign Resource Centre](#).

Pharmacy owners can meet the requirements of the campaigns in several ways, by promoting the Pharmacy First service to the public during the two campaign periods. That could include any of the following ways to promote Pharmacy First:

- By displaying posters, leaflets or other promotional materials relating to the Pharmacy First service at the pharmacy;
- Via information on your pharmacy's website;
- Via information posted your pharmacy's social media channels; and
- By including information on the service in emails or SMS you send to patients.

Existing Pharmacy First promotional materials or content that you are already using in the pharmacy, on your website or on your social media channels would meet the requirements for the campaigns.

For any pharmacies that do not have Pharmacy First marketing materials already in use, a range of resources to promote the service are available:

- to [download from CPE website](#) (posters, flyers, animation for patients, social media content);
- from other pharmacy organisations; and
- updated digital resources will also be made available on the [DHSC Campaign Resource Centre](#) to accompany the NHS England advertising campaign.

[Read more](#)



Autumn/Winter Covid-19 and Flu Vaccination Services

London Flu Vaccination Service

Please be aware that the London PGD for the London local flu service is having to be re-written due to an omission.

Until there is a valid PGD, the service cannot be provided to those co-horts that would not be covered under the national PGD.

For the London service, only the RAVS platform can be used.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Sonar electronic platform that was previously used for the London vaccination service, was decommissioned on August 31st 2025, and can no longer be used for the London service. It is still available, amongst others, for the [national](#) Advanced flu and covid vaccination services.

Adult Flu Vaccination Service

- There are no changes to the eligible cohorts for the 2025/26 season compared to the last season.
- **From 1st September 2025**, pharmacies will be able to vaccinate pregnant women.
- Then, **from 1st October 2025**, vaccination of the other adult cohorts will commence.
- Registration to use the National Booking System (NBS) was between 24th July and 11th August to receive login details before 18th August 2025. Later applications (open until 9th March 2026) will receive their login details within 10 working days.
- NBS opened for participating sites to post flu and COVID-19 vaccination appointments from 18th August 2025.

- NBS will be open for bookings from the public from **1st September 2025** for vaccination from 1st October 2025. The last available appointment date on NBS for flu appointments will be 31st March 2026.
- The campaign **end date will be 31st March 2026**, although NHS England anticipate that most vaccinations should be completed by the end of November 2025 to provide the best possible protection going into winter.
- There are **changes to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation recommended adult flu vaccines** for the 2025/26 season.
- NHS England has reinforced advice regarding the restriction on the use of second line vaccines and has advised pharmacy owners to place orders with more than one manufacturer to ensure receipt of sufficient stock.

[Read more](#)

Childhood Flu Vaccination Service

Children's Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Service.

It is to be commissioned as an Advanced service for a one-season trial of administering flu vaccinations to children aged 2–3 years from 1st October 2025.

The impact of community pharmacy participation in this vaccination programme will be evaluated after the 2025/26 season to inform policy decisions around whether the service will be commissioned in future years.

[Read more](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Service

Pharmacy teams have reported major issues related to large numbers of patients booking COVID-19 vaccinations via the National Booking System (NBS) who are not eligible for the vaccine this winter.

CPE are working with NHS England to try to address this unacceptable situation and to get more NHS communications issued to help people understand whether they are eligible for the vaccine.

[Read more about this issue and what actions we have asked NHS England to undertake](#)

In the meantime, CPE have created three posters that pharmacy teams can use to help explain about vaccine eligibility this winter:

[Who should have the COVID-19 vaccine this winter \(Poster\)](#)

[Information on immunosuppression and C-19 vaccination \(Poster\)](#)

[The NHS has changed who can get a COVID-19 vaccine this winter \(Poster\)](#)

Any pharmacy owners wanting to display notices/posters reminding the public of the importance of respecting staff can download **[NHS-branded materials from the DHSC Campaign Resource Centre](#)**.

Resources

MPG training resources: **<https://www.middlesexlpcs.org.uk>**

Order free promotional materials: **<https://campaignresources.dhsc.gov.uk/search/>**

Drug Tariff Watch: **<https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-october-2025/>**

SSPs Info: **<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>**

CPPE training

Preparing to train as an independent prescriber

Planning to apply for an independent prescriber course?

Our Preparing to train as an independent prescriber programme is here to support you every step of the way.

With a blend of self-directed learning, a mandatory online workshop, and optional sessions on academic writing and reflective practice, you'll gain the confidence and skills to succeed. The programme includes a self-assessment framework and opportunities to connect with peers, giving you structured guidance and practical support.

Whatever your sector—community, hospital, or primary care—this programme will help you get ready for the next stage in your career.

20th October – Online Zoom 7pm– 9pm [Book workshop](#)

Weight management: prescribing perspectives

Are you looking for more confidence when carrying out and recording consultations on weight management medicines? This face-to-face workshop is here to help.

We'll guide you through a safe, structured approach to consultations that can be applied whether or not you are already an independent prescriber or supplying medicines under a Patient Group Direction (PGD).

Open to pharmacists, trainee pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The session is built around trusted clinical and consultation frameworks used in independent prescribing courses. You'll gain practical skills to deliver safe, effective and person-centred care across a variety of pharmacy settings.

1st October – Borehamwood WD6 5PU 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)

14th October – Hounslow TW3 1NA 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)

15th October – Morden SM4 5AX 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)

20th October – Central London WC1B 5BJ 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)

3rd November – South Norwood SE25 6AB 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)

6th November – Wanstead E11 2RQ 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)

10th November – Harrow HA3 OEL 7pm–9pm [Book workshop](#)



Contact us

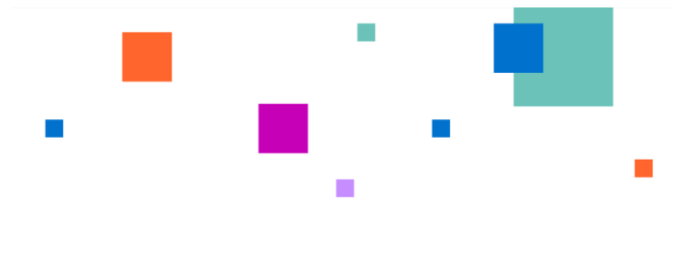
We here at the LPC office support all MPG contractors and pharmacy teams. We would love to hear any feedback you may have about your LPC and if there is anything you would like raised at our next Committee meeting.

Email: group@middlesexpharmacy.org

Join our WhatsApp group via the link or scan the QR code below:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/J9lkV4DcixN3lnZ9REzVzi>





We are also in the process of upgrading our website, once complete full details will be communicated out.



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