

Community Pharmacy Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Newsletter

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

December 2025

Covid-19 and Flu Vaccination Services

Flu vaccine stock availability

With continuing [concern](#) that the NHS may experience a severe influenza season this year, with peaks possibly in January to February 2026, please take every opportunity to remind patients about getting their influenza vaccination and think in particular about vulnerable cohorts of patients such as the homeless, people with learning disabilities, mental health conditions, health and social care staff and pregnant patients. A full list of the additional categories of patients eligible for influenza vaccination covered by the London influenza vaccination PGD can be found under the inclusion criteria [here](#):

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/10/NHSE-London-Pharmacy-IIV-Enhanced-Service-PGD-v1.0-1.pdf>

Manufacturers have confirmed that flu vaccine stock is available.

- Seqirus: Plenty of stock remains available.
- Sanofi: HD only. The IIvR is unavailable, but HD is available to order.

If a wholesaler is out of stock, **CPs can and should order directly from the manufacturer.**

Please refer to the ordering information below.

Seqirus – aTIV and TIVc

- Online portal: flu360.co.uk
- Telephone: 0845 745 1500
- Email: service.uk@seqirus.com
- Minimum order quantity: 20 doses
- Delivery time: Orders should be delivered within 48 hours of order placement

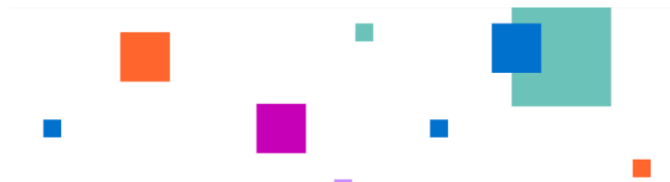
Sanofi (HD only)

- Online portal: VaxiShop
 - Telephone: 0800 854430
 - Email: GB-vaccinecustomerservices@sanofi.com
 - Minimum order quantity: no minimum order quantity
 - Delivery time: Orders should be delivered within 48 hours of order confirmation
-

Registration for the spring 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Service opens (pharmacy owners must register by 2nd February 2026 to guarantee supplies in time for the start of the spring season). Pharmacy owners must complete their **electronic registration declaration using this form** (this form will only be open from 5th January 2026). This is an interim arrangement until the NHSBSA's (MYS registration is available in April 2026).

Joint 2026/27 **service specification** published, with fee uplifts from April 2026 Summary:

- New joint service specification for COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations published.
- COVID-19 vaccinations become an Advanced service from April 2026.



- Fees for both vaccinations uplifted, but additional fee for housebound patients removed.
- Pharmacy owners must use the National Booking Service (NBS) for COVID-19 vaccinations, but this is still not a requirement for flu.
- Registration for spring COVID-19 campaign opens from 5th January 2026, and pharmacy owners must register by 2nd February 2026 to guarantee supplies in time for the start of the spring season.

[Read more](#)



Pharmacy First Service

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 took place alongside an NHS England advertising campaign promoting Pharmacy First to the public.

This was based, with some minor updates, 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 are 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

Community Pharmacy England resources

CPE have developed a range of materials including posters, social media assets and an animation which pharmacy owners can use to promote the service to patients.

CPE's shared folder (link below) allows you to download the latest versions of the following resources:

- Posters for display within pharmacies and for more general use (e.g. in general practice waiting rooms);
- Social media tiles and suggested social media posts about Pharmacy First;
- Videos and digital screen graphics;
- Small flyers about Pharmacy First; and
- Template local press release for Pharmacy First launch.

Download here: [Pharmacy First promotional resources](#)

[Read more](#)

Pharmacy Quality Scheme

2nd February 2026 Declaration window opens at 9am.

Action: If you wish to make a PQS declaration ensure you claim for this on the MYS portal between **9am on 2nd February 2026 and 11.59pm on 27th February 2026**.

Pharmacy teams do not need to continue with the 'Use of a spacer in patients aged 5–15 years' quality criterion, as part of PQS.

Pharmacy teams do not need to continue with the 'Referrals for patients using three or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers without any corticosteroid inhaler in six months' quality criterion, as part of PQS.

3rd February 2026 PQS: Deadline to start the Antimicrobial Stewardship – Pharmacy First consultations clinical audit (this is eight weeks until **31st March 2026**, which is the deadline for ensuring the requirements of the quality criteria have been met).

27th February 2026 PQS: Declaration window closes at 11.59pm.

Action: If you wish to make a PQS declaration ensure you have claimed for this on the MYS portal by the end of the day.



[Read more](#)

Pharmacy Contraception Service

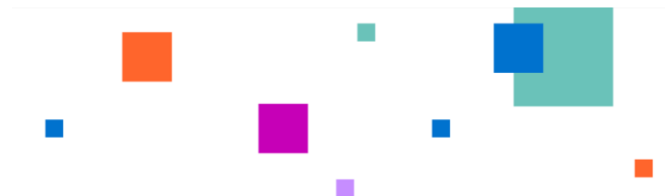
While some local authority-commissioned EC services allowed clients to use false name/initials only plus DoB along with a partial postcode for their address to keep the client's identity anonymous, this is not possible for the national service. The service requires an identifiable patient record to be made. While this will not be shared with the individual's general practice without her consent, it is a requirement of the service and a requirement to meet post payment verification. Where the individual is unwilling to provide their details, a service record cannot be made and, therefore, the service cannot be provided in that circumstance. You might want to consider offering purchase of an appropriate OTC product, within any licence restrictions.

If your system did previously operate an anonymous local service, please advise your pharmacy owners that an identifiable patient record is required to provide the national service. This was confirmed in the joint webinar that was held with NHS England at the start of the service.

[Webinars](#)

Hypertension Case-Finding Service

There is a strong focus on hypertension in all boroughs and those pharmacies offering the HCFS are reminded that the appropriate use of ABPM is an essential component of the service.



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.**

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'.

NCL Self Care Medicines Scheme

Thank you to all the pharmacies that have signed up to the NCL Self Care Medicines Scheme and are providing much needed free-of-charge over-the-counter medicines to populations in need.

NCL ICB has highlighted low sign-up to the Scheme in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey boroughs, particularly Barnet borough and also very low activity for the Scheme even when pharmacies have signed up. Please display [posters](#) and [leaflets](#) in your pharmacy, highlight to patients where appropriate and please let us know if there is anything further we can do to promote uptake of the Scheme.

Funding has been agreed at least until 31 March 2026. NCL ICB, like all sectors of the NHS, is under extreme financial pressure. If the ICB considers that there is poor sign-up and poor usage of the Scheme, the service may be decommissioned resulting in loss to our most vulnerable in society and to those pharmacies that provide the service.

If you have not yet signed up/started delivering the NCL Self-Care Medicines Scheme, here are three compelling reasons to do so today:

1. **Supporting Vulnerable Patients & Reducing Health Inequalities**
The scheme provides free medicines to patients on low incomes who struggle to afford basic treatments for minor health conditions at a time of extreme cost of living crisis. This ensures that socially vulnerable individuals receive timely care, preventing their conditions from worsening and reducing unnecessary GP visits. Given that [31% of children in the UK live in relative poverty after housing costs](#), this initiative is crucial in addressing health disparities in NCL.
2. **Reducing Shoplifting & Crime Related to Medicine Theft**
Economic hardship has led to an increase in [theft](#) of essential medicines, including paracetamol and Calpol, particularly in areas with high poverty rates. Shoplifting of medicines is often driven by desperation, as families struggle to afford basic healthcare. By participating in the scheme, pharmacies can help mitigate this issue by ensuring that those in need have access to essential treatments without resorting to theft.
3. **Strengthening Community Pharmacy Role & NHS Cost Savings**
The scheme aligns with NHS England's guidance on over-the-counter medicines, promoting self-care as the first-line treatment. By enabling pharmacies to provide free medicines to eligible patients, it reduces pressure on GP and Urgent and Emergency Care services, improves patient outcomes, and supports the NHS in delivering cost-effective healthcare. Pharmacies that join the scheme enhance their role as trusted healthcare providers, fostering stronger relationships with their communities.

We have also received reports that some GP practices are helping patients find pharmacies that are offering access to the Self Care Medicines Service, where the patient genuinely cannot afford to purchase OTC medicines.

You can read more about it [here](#) and inform the ICB expressing your interest to join [here](#).



If you are interested in taking a step forward in your career by joining an NHSE-funded prescribing course starting March 2026 (applications December 2025/January 2026), we the programme will find and fund a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) to support your learning in practice time.

Express your interest by clicking this link: [NCL Teach & Treat 2026 Community Pharmacist EOI Form](#)

Please submit your Expressions of Interest (EOI) by 23rd December 2025.

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-december-2025/>

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

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/lqn3gA1KepVBCmbftWAZAi>



We are pleased to confirm that the new Middlesex Pharmaceutical Group of LPCs website is live.

<https://middlesex.communitypharmacy.org.uk/>





Seasonal greetings and best wishes for 2026 from the MPG team.

Community Pharmacy Barnet, Enfield & Haringey

Address: Premier House, Ground Floor, 309 Ballards Lane, Finchley, N12 8LY

Tel: 0208 492 0592 Email: group@middlesexpharmacy.org

Please get in touch via the contact details above if you want to unsubscribe from this mailing list.