

Community Pharmacy Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB News

A newsletter for Community Pharmacy Teams in Nottingham,
Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw

Purpose of this newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to share news from across the health system with Community Pharmacy Teams. Please share this newsletter with everyone in your pharmacy team including any locum staff.

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Questions and feedback about this newsletter

If you have any questions, please email the ICB Community Pharmacy Clinical lead; Rebecca Dickenson using the email address Rebecca.Dickenson7@nhs.net.

Please send feedback as it helps to tailor this newsletter for you and your team.

Pharmacy First Update

There are a lot of changes happening in 2025/26 for the pharmacy first service. These include:

- £2 increase for Pharmacy First Minor Illness and Clinical Pathway consultations
- £7 increase for the oral contraception service
- Phased introduction of bundling requirements from June 2025
- Depression to be added to the New Medicines Service from October 2025
- Changes to the payments for hypertensive case finding -now £10 for opportunistic check and £50.85 for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Emergency Hormonal contraception (EHC) to be including in the oral contraception service from October 2023, subject to IT infrastructure.

More information can be read on Community Pharmacy England website here; [CPCF arrangements for 2024/25 and 2025/26 announced - Community Pharmacy England](#)

As emergency contraception will become part of the oral contraception service, (from October 25, IT allowing) you may wish to start getting ready for this. As well as the CPPE distance learning package, CPPE also have an online workshop on Tuesday 27th May 7-9pm. To book please visit the CPPE website on this link [Emergency contraception : CPPE.](#)

In the meantime, EHC is also commissioned by County and City Public Health teams. There are no plans to decommission the public health service in the short term as it is important that those that need this service can continue to access it, especially if there is a delay to the IT requirement. There may be a short period of time whilst both schemes run to prevent the gap in service. Please continue to sign up for the Public Health service using the following links.

Nottingham City - [Pharmacy based sexual health services - Nottingham City Council](#)

Nottingham County - Register on www.eastmidstenders.org and express interest in the service.

Sexual health services are also interested in any training needs that Community Pharmacy teams may have, so please get in touch using the email sexualhealth.ncc@notts.gov.uk if you have any ideas.

Hypertensive case finding Promotion

Well done to Imran Mohammed, pictured below, taking the blood pressure of Nigel Clough the manager of Mansfield Town as part of a promotion with the football club encouraging people to have their blood pressure checked.

This promotion was shown on BBC East Midlands today and in the local press which you can view for a limited time on the links below:

[Football fans urged to get life-saving blood pressure checks as season reaches finale](#)

[Football fans urged to get life-saving blood pressure checks | West Bridgford Wire](#)



CPPE Build Your Confidence and Leadership – Pharmacy Technician Impact Groups

Please see below information from CPPE about the Pharmacy Technician Impact groups.

Are you looking to build your **confidence, professionalism, and leadership skills** as a pharmacy technician?

We're pleased to announce that **Pharmacy Technician Impact Groups** are now open for booking. These small, supportive groups use an **action learning approach** to help you grow in confidence, reflect on your experiences, and develop key leadership skills in a safe and collaborative environment.

Here's what recent participants have shared:

"I have gained confidence in my leadership abilities. I feel more assured when answering questions or queries from colleagues."

"I am not afraid to say no. I am not afraid to raise questions. Thanks to the group sessions, I am now committed to being the best version of myself."

These sessions also **complement the *Pharmacy technicians: enhancing your professional practice e-course***, helping you apply your learning in a real-world context with the support of peers and experienced facilitators.

Why join?

- Build confidence in your role
- Strengthen your leadership capabilities
- Develop your professional identity
- Connect with a supportive network of peers

Places are limited, so we encourage you to book your place early to avoid missing out, please follow this link to find out more and book; [Find out more and book your place](#)

Diabetes UK Free Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Online Module

Diabetes UK have launched their new **free** Type 2 Diabetes Prevention online learning module to equip professionals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to support people to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. We know that an estimated 6.4 million people are at increased risk of type 2 diabetes in the UK. For some people, this risk can be reduced by about 50% by getting support to eat healthy foods, be more active and lose weight, where appropriate.

The e-module takes about 60 minutes and can be found by following this link [Type 2 Diabetes Prevention | Diabetes UK CPD](#)

Electronic Repeat Dispensing

The ICB are encouraging practices to use electronic repeat dispensing for suitable patients and have a guide for practices which can be read here; [electronic-repeat-dispensing-full-guide.pdf](#). Community Pharmacy England does have some resources for Community Pharmacy which can be accessed here; [Repeat Dispensing and eRD - Community Pharmacy England](#) and includes the questions that should be asked before each supply.

Real Time Exemption Checking

Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC) allows you to automatically check if your patients have a known exemption and can claim free NHS prescriptions. The technical solution enables your PMR system to digitally check and automatically apply an NHSBSA exemption or DWP benefit to your patient's electronic prescription. This means that there is reduced need to print off tokens saving the pharmacy time and money.

The key benefits of using RTEC and details of the process can be found on the Community Pharmacy England page here; [Real Time Exemption Checking \(RTEC\) - Community Pharmacy England](#).

Specialist Medicines

Specialist medicines which should normally only be prescribed in secondary care settings are classified locally as "red drugs". These can be found on the Nottinghamshire formulary and if you would like to see an example please follow this link [Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee Formulary](#) to view the entry for Abacivir.

The formulary is slightly different in the Bassetlaw area and this formulary can be viewed here [Medicines and Products Directory Home](#)

GP practices in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire have been advised to record drugs that should be prescribed by **specialists only** in a new way. This is to ensure that the clinical system can flag up safety warnings e.g. interactions, and that the drug appears on the patients' summary care record consistently.

Practices are now advised to enter the specialist drug in the usual repeat prescribing section, with the following wording in the directions field:

"HOSPITAL DRUG – DO NOT ISSUE / DISPENSE" and the quantity should be set to 1.

On SystmOne, other settings can be used to indicate that the script is not to be issued with the patients repeat medication, but these do not prevent the script being issued.

Recent ePACT data is showing that a small number of scripts are being inadvertently issued by practices and then dispensed by community pharmacy colleagues.

Please can we ask you to make all your staff aware that if such scripts are accidentally issued, **these scripts should not be dispensed** – items can be endorsed as “Not Dispensed” and the practice should be notified.

Any scripts with unusual quantities (either low or high) should be queried with the practice to help prevent errors and promote patient safety.

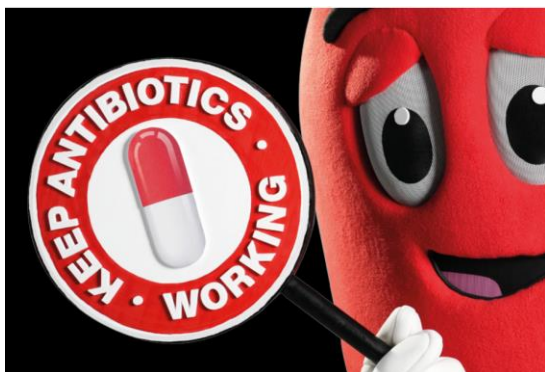
If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the NNICB Medicines Optimisation Team via any of the email addresses below:

nnicb-nn.medsopnottscity@nhs.net

nnicb-nn.medsopsouthnotts@nhs.net

nnicb-nn.medsopmidnotts@nhs.net

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) antibiotic campaign



The UKHSA have launched an antimicrobial resistance campaign, mainly directed towards young adults (18-34years) but the messages are relevant to all. For more information please follow this link [What is Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) and how can you help combat it? – UK Health Security Agency](#)

Update on COVID-19 antivirals and lateral Flow tests

The following information has been taken from the NHS England Communication.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK government procured and purchased COVID-19 antivirals to protect people who were at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill. This meant that they were available free of charge to NHS organisations.

As we have now moved out of pandemic arrangements, the Government are not procuring further supplies. This means that once existing centrally procured pandemic stockpiles exhaust or expire, COVID-19 antivirals will need to be procured and purchased by the NHS in the usual way - they will no longer be available free of charge to NHS organisations who instead will pay an agreed list price. The list price was considered by NICE when recommending these treatments as a cost-effective use of NHS resources.

Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)

- Following expiry of the government stockpile, Lagevrio® is available for pharmacies to order directly from Alliance Healthcare at the list price from April 2025. Details can be found here: <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/expiry-of-government-stockpile-of-molnupiravir-lagevrio-200mg-capsules/>.

Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

- Government stockpiles of Paxlovid® will expire on 31st May 2025. The last delivery of Government stocks ordered by pharmacies will be **30th April 2025**. The last order cut off times will be the standard cut off times for a delivery that day.
- We advise that pharmacies should continue to use up Government stock of Paxlovid® expiring in May that they have ordered. The last day pharmacies should dispense this stock is 24th May 2025, to ensure that the patient completes the 5-day course before it expires. Please dispose of expired stock in the usual manner.
- After government procured stock has expired, Paxlovid® will remain available for pharmacies to order directly from Pfizer via Alliance Healthcare from 1st May 2025.
- The company can be contacted directly for information: For product national reimbursement, access, or price related questions: pfizerukaccess@pfizer.com and for product supply related questions: customer.services@pfizer.com.

In both cases, the move to commercial supply will be through the usual essential service prescription dispensing and reimbursement processes.

NHS Lateral Flow Device Tests Supply Service extension

The community pharmacy NHS Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests Supply Service has been extended for another year, starting 1st April 2025.

This walk-in service provides at-risk patients eligible for COVID-19 treatments access to LFD tests for home use if they develop symptoms. A positive result helps inform clinical assessments to determine suitability for NICE-recommended treatments.

The full list of eligible patients is available in [NICE guidelines](#), with more information available in the [service specification](#).

Pharmacy Services Assistant Apprenticeship Consultation

Following changes in legislation and working practices the level 2 pharmacy services assistant apprenticeship standard which was approved back in 2018, may require changes. A consultation on this standard is open until 9th May and can be accessed on this link [Pharmacy Services Assistant Apprenticeship Standard Consultation](#)

Research

Have you ever considered getting involved in Research?

We know that research benefits patients. Research is needed to improve health, advance patient care, develop new drugs and vaccines and more.

But there are also benefits to those staff involved. Pharmacists report benefiting from research involvement in many ways including financial gain, status, curiosity, learning and contribution, meaning and purpose, public and peer recognition.

A first step into research could be as simple as putting up a poster to share the benefits of research with your patients. Posters can be ordered for free here: [NIHR Printed Resources](#)

Interested patients can be signposted to an array of opportunities. Many research studies allow patients to directly sign up and the attached resource lists them all. This can be printed and handed to patients or displayed in your pharmacies.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to get involved with recruiting patients to studies and the payments available for this work please get in touch with Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Research Champions jane.coleman6@nhs.net and ed.longridge@nhs.net

Support for unpaid carers in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

The joint carers strategy sets out what we will do to improve the health and wellbeing of all carers, and how we will meet those needs by working together in partnership. It was co-produced by carers with lived experience and outlines their expectations for the future of what 'good' looks like.

The strategy can be viewed on this link; [joint-carers-strategy-2023-28.pdf](#).



How can you help?

By connecting unpaid carers to the following support services:

For adult carers here is the link to the carers hub; [Carers Hub | Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County](#)

We have a dedicated Support Worker who works directly with GP surgeries and more information can be found on this link [Carers Support in GP Surgeries - Nottingham / Nottinghamshire Carers Hub Service](#)

For young carers (aged 5-17 years) here is the link to support; [Young Carers Notts](#)

Nottinghamshire Carers Association are for all age carers to have a voice and for information about our Carers in Employment and Community Engagement projects. Their website can be viewed here [Homepage](#). If you would like to know more about our Employer Carer Quality Mark, please email info@nottinghamshirecarers.co.uk

There is also a carers booklet which can be downloaded from this link; [carersbooklet.pdf](#) If you would like some copies of our Carer booklet or posters to display, please email carershubinfo@carersfederation.co.uk

Thank you for supporting us to support unpaid carers.