

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

A series of nine posters and social media adverts have been designed by NHS England to promote the Pharmacy First service for the Spring season. You can access these on this link [Social media assets - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB](#)



We have had some feedback that some Community Pharmacy teams are less confident managing skin conditions as part of Pharmacy First. There is a CPPE dermology learning programme that pharmacists and technicians may find helpful which can be accessed here; [Dermatology: An introduction to managing common skin conditions : CPPE](#)

Calling All Community Pharmacy Technicians

We are currently looking for pharmacy technicians from Community Pharmacy to be a representative at a Pharmacy Technician Workforce meeting. The group will be focusing on areas such as professional development, workforce recruitment issues, national policy developments and any other issues relating to patient care and medicines optimisation.

The group is directly accountable to Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Board (MOPB), which is a system level meeting of senior pharmacists in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Meetings will be held monthly, lasting for a maximum of 2 hours. Please contact Rebecca Steyn via this email r.steyn@nhs.net if interested or you require any further information.

Funding for Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025

The information below is from the NHS England workforce pharmacy team. Please note the deadline **for funding applications is Sunday 15 June**

We are excited to announce the launch of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025. More information can be found on this link; [Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025](#). This programme will support Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians (PTPTs) to be employed and complete their 24-month apprenticeship training within a **community pharmacy setting**. Upon completion of training and registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) the registered pharmacy technicians' will be able to utilise their expertise and knowledge to support community pharmacies in various ways, including contributing to the delivery of pharmacy services and broader healthcare reforms.

Funding Offer

We are offering a training contribution of **£15,053 per trainee, per year for two years** (24 months) to support community pharmacies in developing a PTPT programme that meets the GPhC IET standards for pharmacy technicians (the link to view is here [standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians october 2017 1.pdf](#)) and the [NHS England Education Quality Framework](#) (the link to view is here [Education Quality Strategy and Framework | NHS England | Workforce, training and education](#)) .

Next Steps

Application for funding is through an expression of interest (EoI) submitted via an online application form which can be found here; [Community Pharmacy: Application for PTPT Training Contribution 2025](#). The application window will open on Monday 19 May 2025 until Sunday 15 June 2025.

We will be holding a series of national stakeholder engagement meetings via MS Teams to provide more information on the programme including the application process and how to access apprenticeship funding. Use the links below to attend your preferred date. You only need to attend one meeting date.

- 7pm Wednesday 21 May link [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- 11am Wednesday 28 May link [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- 8am Thursday 29 May 2025 link [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- 1pm Monday 02 June link [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- 1pm, Sunday 08 June 2025 link [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- 12pm Tuesday 10 June link [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

If you have any questions please follow this link [Pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician \(PTPT\) | NHS England | Workforce, training and education](#) email england.wtepharmacy.mids@nhs.net with Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025 in the subject field.

Oral Contraceptives and the Preferred Prescribing List

Prescribing medicines by their generic name is generally preferred in Primary Care but there are some circumstances when brand-name or branded generic prescribing is warranted.

The ICB has historically recommended some branded-generics and is in the process of moving to generic prescribing for all medicines, unless there is a clinical reason to prescribe by brand, or if there is a significant sustainable saving for the NHS by prescribing by brand name. Appropriate reasons for brand prescribing are listed in the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) guidance which can be accessed here; [Prescribing by generic or brand name in primary care guidance](#).

With the increasing uptake of the Pharmacy Contraception Service in Community Pharmacy setting it would be an appropriate time to highlight the preferred brands of oral contraceptive medications that are recommended in the Nottinghamshire APC guidelines which can be accessed here on page 4 [preferred-brands_aide-memoire.pdf](#).

Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Bulletin

The latest APC update is now available for May and can be viewed here [Area Prescribing Committee Bulletin May 2025](#)

This edition includes:

- Heart failure guidelines (new)
- Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) - new local prescribing guideline
- Antimicrobial guidelines:
 - Meningitis and Splenectomy
 - Wound infection podcast
 - Wound Infection presentation
 - APC Antimicrobial Bulletin April 2025
- Continence formulary - update of the Catheters & Accessories section
- Blood Glucose & Ketone Meter Formulary - interim update
- Blood Glucose and Ketone Testing - Frequency and Eligibility - interim update

Prepayment Certificates

We are encouraging all community pharmacy teams to help raise awareness about the savings patients can make with prepayment certificates (PPCs). Posters are available from the Primary Care support portal on this link; [Primary Care Support England | PCSE](#) and HRT PPC posters can be downloaded from the NHS Business Services Authority resource library here [Media Library](#). More information and posters can also be found on the Community Pharmacy England website here; [Promoting NHS prescription prepayment certificates - Community Pharmacy England](#)

Greener Pharmacy Toolkit is Now Available

Commissioned by NHS England and supported by the Greener NHS programme, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society have produced a Greener Pharmacy Toolkit which can be accessed here: [Greener Pharmacy](#). This digital assessment tool helps teams take practical action to reduce the environmental impact of pharmacy services, pharmaceutical care and medicines, while supporting patient care.

The toolkit is easy to use and provides prompts for more sustainable practices to reduce emissions, improve patient care, prevent ill health, tackle medicines waste and achieve efficiency savings. Register for a webinar on 29 May using this link [Greener Pharmacy Toolkit - New Registration](#) to find out more about the toolkit.

Flu Antiviral Medication Update

Changes in the prescribing of antiviral medication in primary care have been announced as below.

The most recent surveillance data from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) indicates

that circulation of influenza in the community has returned to baseline levels. In accordance with NICE guidance and Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of drugs etc.) Regulations 2004), commonly known as the Grey List or Selected List Scheme (SLS):

- GPs and other prescribers working in primary care should no longer prescribe antiviral medicines (including neuraminidase inhibitors) for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza on an FP10 prescription form.
- Community pharmacists should no longer supply antiviral medicines in primary care on presentation of an FP10 prescription form.

This advice stands until further notice. This does not impact on prescribing of antiviral medicines in hospitals, which can continue as normal.

Medication Supply Shortages

Medicines supply issues continue to be a daily battle for community pharmacy

Register with Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) to get the latest up to date information on medication supply issues using this link <https://www.sps.nhs.uk>



You require an email address to register.

Once registered go to Tools and click on Medication Supply or follow this link [Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

This tool is updated weekly and lists medication shortages, discontinued medication, limited availability and anticipated resupply dates.

You can also sign up to receive a weekly email which provides a concise list of the changes that have occurred in the past 7 days.

There is also a document available on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB medicines management website which gives some helpful tips about working with GP practices to minimise the impact of medicines shortages which can be accessed here [shortages_workingtogether_v11.pdf](#)