

## 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](mailto:Rebecca.Dickenson7@nhs.net).

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

## Do you have a foundation pharmacist starting this year?

2025/26 sees a number of changes in the training of Foundation pharmacists including the independent prescribing requirement.

NHSE are holding a number of webinars to help with the change in training requirements, as listed below which are designed to help employers/tutors meet these needs.

9th April 12-1:30

Demystifying Training Plans and the Assessment Strategy

Register [here](#):

22nd May 12-1:30

Prescribing Assessment Activities (PAAs)

Register [here](#):

12th June 12-1:30

Onboarding your Foundation Trainee Pharmacist

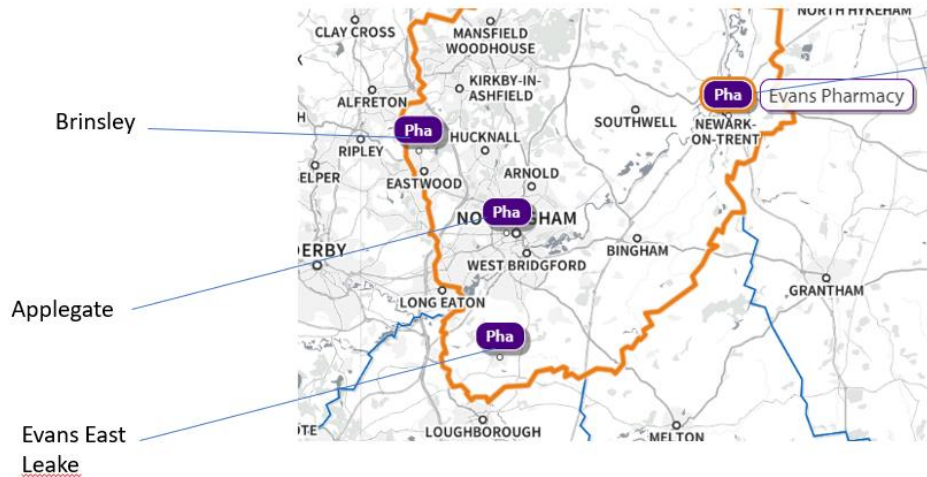
Register [here](#):

## Independent Prescriber Pathfinders Update

In preparation for the fact that from 2026 all newly qualified pharmacists will be independent prescribers, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB are taking part in a trial to help work out the best way of using these new skills for the NHS.


There are 4 pathfinder sites prescribing for on the day illness within the competencies of the independent prescribers. These sites are:

- Evans East Leake
- Evans Newark
- Applegate Pharmacy
- Brinsley Pharmacy



So far, the sites have done over 500 consultations, which is a fantastic achievement.


Special thanks to Emma Anderson and Thamid Khan who have helped develop the promotional material and were the first two sites to go live in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB.



"Hi, I'm Emma, a Pharmacist and Independent Prescriber, which means I am able to prescribe certain medicines, without you needing to see your GP."

**Ask me about**  
**NHS funded treatments for:**

- Chest infections (*aged 12 and over*)
- Ear pain (*aged over 1 year*)
- New onset skin conditions (*aged over 1 year*)
- Plus many others



"Hi, I'm Thamid, a Pharmacist and Independent Prescriber, which means I am able to prescribe certain medicines, without you needing to see your GP."

**Ask me about**  
**NHS funded treatments for:**

- Chest infections
- Oral thrush
- Ear infections
- Plus many others

## Oral Contraception Service Resources

Community Pharmacy England have produced some new resources for the Oral contraception service such as the one shown below:

**Pharmacy Contraception Service: What GPs and Sexual health clinics need to know**

The Pharmacy Contraception Service can help reduce pressure on GP practices and sexual health clinics

- The service offers **greater choice from where people can access contraception services** and can **create additional capacity** in primary care and sexual health clinics. **Helping to support meeting the demand for more complex assessments.**
- Pharmacists can independently **initiate and can continue provision of oral contraceptives** initiated in primary care (including general practice and pharmacies) or sexual health clinics. **Expanding on work they have already been doing as part of locally commissioned sexual health services.**
- As **pharmacies are highly accessible**, pharmacists providing the service can **help address health inequalities** by providing wider healthcare access in their communities. **They can also signpost service users to local sexual health services.**

People can access the service by:

- Being **identified as clinically suitable** by the community pharmacist and accepting the offer of the service
- Self-refer** to a community pharmacy
- Referred by their **general practice**
- Referred from a **sexual health clinic** (or equivalent)
- Referred from other **NHS service providers**, e.g. urgent treatment centres or NHS 111

Where the person consents, any oral contraception supplied is **recorded in the patient's GP record** via GP Connect Update Record. **This provides visibility of the consultation and supply of contraceptive to other healthcare professionals.**

Supplies are authorised via **Patient Group Directions** with appropriate checks, such as the measurement of the person's blood pressure and body mass index, being undertaken, where necessary.

Eligible individuals seeking supplies of oral contraceptives can be considered for:

- Combined Oral Contraceptive** – from menarche up to and including 49 years of age; or
- Progestogen Only Pill** – from menarche up to and including 54 years of age.

Supplies on initiation will **not exceed 3 months**. Ongoing supplies will be for **up to 12 months**. If a supply is **not clinically appropriate**, the individual will be referred to their GP practice or sexual health clinic.

**Please refer suitable individuals to the Pharmacy Contraception Service at their chosen community pharmacy**

For more information, visit [cpe.org.uk/PCS](http://cpe.org.uk/PCS)

This resource and others can be downloaded from the Community Pharmacy England page here [Pharmacy Contraception Service \(PCS\) - Community Pharmacy England](#)

## Vitamin D prescribing switch programme

The ICB Medicines Optimisation Technician Team train and work with Medicines Management Facilitators in GP Practices to carry out safety and efficiency work. One of their current projects is switching patients on vitamin D, (brands and generic) to the 1000unit Valupak brand. Until now they have only switched those on 1000unit preparations but are expanding the work to also include those on 800unit preparations. You may wish to consider managing your stock in line with these changes.

## Changes to referrals for maternity services for patients wanting to use pregnancy services at Nottingham City Hospital or Queens Medical Centre

From 1 April 2025, the way patients can be referred into the maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) is changing. Once a patient finds out that they are pregnant then they can now refer themselves to the midwifery services at Nottingham University Hospitals by using the link that can be found on the Trust's maternity pages here - [Maternity | NUH](#).

This change will make things easier for patients as they will no longer have to contact the GP surgery for a referral to maternity care and will free up appointments in the GP surgery. This new process is also quicker enabling more patients to be seen within the recommended first 10 weeks of pregnancy time frame.

Maternity services are essential as pre-pregnancy care reduces the risk of pregnancy complications and increases the number of healthy births. Please let all relevant patients know about the change and consider putting the poster up which can be downloaded from here [Social media assets - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB](#)



# ARE YOU PREGNANT?

Nottingham University Hospitals has a new process to access Maternity care.

If you have had a positive pregnancy test, please self-refer to our Maternity services so we can offer you maternity care

Visit: [www.nuh.nhs.uk/Maternity](http://www.nuh.nhs.uk/Maternity)



If you require any assistance completing the referral form, please call:  
**0115 883 8928**



## East Midlands Primary Care Team Community Pharmacy Strategy

The East Midlands Primary Care Team who manages the Community pharmacy contracts and commissioning on behalf of the five East Midlands ICBs, (Integrated Care Boards), including Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB are producing a Community Pharmacy strategy.

The aim is to produce this strategy in co-production with a number of stakeholders including Community Pharmacy Teams.

To facilitate this there will be a in person event on Thursday 10th April at the Post Mill Centre, off Market Street, South Normanton, Alfreton DE55 2EJ. (just off M1). This will begin at 9.30am for welcome /arrivals/refreshments to allow a 10am prompt start. Finish time will be 4pm. The event includes refreshments and lunch.

If you wish to attend, please let Shazia Patel, Assistant Pharmacy Director know on the email [Shazia.patel1@nhs.net](mailto:Shazia.patel1@nhs.net)