

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.

In this issue

Questions and feedback about this newsletter	1
Pharmacy First Survey - Attention all pharmacy owners and team members.....	2
Pharmacy First Posters Now Available in Multiple Languages	2
Support for patients taking osteoporosis medicines	2
Reminder: GLP-1 receptor agonists interactions with oral contraception – safety guidance.....	3
New Midlands Controlled Drugs (CD) contact details and old Midlands CD Team contact details decommissioned.....	3
Important Reminder - Steroid Emergency Cards	4
Labelling of Dispensed Oral Medicines for Children Position Statement	5
Update to the Point of Care Site onboarding process and guidance in preparation for the AW-25 COVID-19 & flu campaign	5
New application route to rearrange core opening hours	6
Briefing: Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England.....	6
Levemir Insulin Medicine Supply Notification	6
MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Depo-Medrone 80 mg in 2 mL, Maxearn Limited EL(25)A/29.....	6

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 Survey - Attention all pharmacy owners and team members

Please keep supporting the Pharmacy First survey to capture vital patient feedback on the service. This quick, two-minute survey helps demonstrate the service's impact to the NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and informs local and national improvements. Every response helps strengthen the future of Pharmacy First. Community Pharmacy England have produced some promotional material to support the survey. To view this additional information please follow this link [Download the promotional resources](#)

Pharmacy First Posters Now Available in Multiple Languages

Pharmacy teams can now download Pharmacy First posters in multiple languages to help promote the service to patients in their communities. Thanks to the support of Sussex Integrated Care Board, translated posters are available in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Central Kurdish
- French
- Gujarati
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese

These materials can support more inclusive communication and help ensure that more patients from diverse backgrounds understand the benefits of the Pharmacy First service. To view this material please click on the following link [Download the posters](#)

Support for patients taking osteoporosis medicines

The Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS) has launched BoneMed Online, a new free service to support patients taking osteoporosis medicines and improve adherence.

A digital support pack and patient materials are available for healthcare professionals. Pharmacy teams could advise patients about the service during New Medicine Service (NMS) consultations or when dispensing osteoporosis medicines. For more information follow this link [Tell me more](#)

Reminder: GLP-1 receptor agonists interactions with oral contraception – safety guidance

Pharmacy owners providing the Pharmacy Contraception Service are reminded that patients using GLP-1 receptor agonists (including tirzepatide) should use effective contraception, as advised by the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). For more information click on the following link [What you need to know](#)

New Midlands Controlled Drugs (CD) contact details and old Midlands CD Team contact details decommissioned

With effect from 31 July 2025, the following former enquiry e-mail addresses for the Midlands CD Team will be decommissioned:

England.northmidlandscd@nhs.net

england.centralmidlands-cd@nhs.net

england.westmidlandscd@nhs.net

Any messages sent to the above e-mail accounts after 31 July 2025 will not be responded to.

With immediate effect, please send any CD enquiries for the NHS England Midlands Controlled Drugs Team to the following email address

England.midlandscd@nhs.net

Please ensure any of your informational posters, or internal policies quoting the older e-mail addresses are updated or replaced, so that no correspondence with us is lost.

If you need to report a Controlled Drug incident or concern, you should submit details as usual on-line via the national CD Reporting Programme at the following website address,

www.cdreporting.co.uk (this has not changed).

Important Reminder - Steroid Emergency Cards

All patients with primary adrenal insufficiency are steroid dependent and some patients who take oral, inhaled, or topical steroids for other medical conditions may develop secondary adrenal insufficiency and become steroid dependent. The omission of steroids for patients with primary or secondary adrenal insufficiency can lead to adrenal crisis; a medical emergency which if left untreated can be fatal. If these patients become acutely ill or are subject to major body stressors, such as from trauma or surgery, they require higher doses of steroids to prevent an adrenal crisis.

There are 2 types of steroid alert card a patient over the age of 16 years may be required to carry:

1. **A steroid TREATMENT card** (blue/white card). This contains general advice for patients receiving steroids and has a place to record current steroid treatment regimes.
2. **A steroid EMERGENCY card** (red/white card) to support early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis.

It has come to our attention that many eligible patients have not been issued with a steroid card.

It's everyone's responsibility to check that a patient understands and that they have the appropriate card(s).

Community pharmacies, GP surgeries and Secondary Care can issue the cards, and all should have processes and prompts in place for checking if a patient needs/has a Steroid Emergency Card when reviewing patients, initiating steroids or authorising repeat prescriptions and ahead of any emergency treatment, elective surgery, or other invasive procedures.

Figure 1: Steroid Treatment Card:



Figure 2: Steroid Emergency Card:



Issue of steroid cards should be recorded on clinical systems and patients' understanding must always be checked.

The Emergency Steroid Card can be ordered from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) using this link <https://secure.pcse.england.nhs.uk/forms/pcsssignin.aspx>

Cards are available on clinical systems and a pdf can be downloaded and saved to phones from this link: <https://www.endocrinology.org/media/3873/steroid-card.pdf>

For further information and details of patients at risk of adrenal insufficiency please see Nottinghamshire APC guideline here [guideline-for-the-issuing-of-steroid-card.pdf](#)- and NHSE guidance here [NHS England » Steroid Emergency Card to support early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults](#)

Labelling of Dispensed Oral Medicines for Children Position Statement

The Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group have published a labelling Position Statement detailing an accurate, easy to understand and patient-focused labelling practice which is essential to support safe administration of medicines. This statement will serve as a valuable reference point for the pharmacy team. Please click on the following link to view the Position Statement [Labelling of Dispensed Oral Medicines for Children position statement - NPPG](#)

In summary to increase consistency and thus reduce the likelihood of error, it is recommended that when preparing dispensing labels for oral medicines:

1. For liquid medicines, the dose is expressed in millilitres (mL) only. The dispenser must also ensure that the volume specified can be measured with the administration device provided.
2. For solid dosage forms, the dose is expressed as the number of tablets or capsules to be taken. The quantity of tablets to be taken must be expressed numerically rather than in words, e.g. "1 capsule" or "2 tablets" rather than "one capsule" or "two tablets".
3. The dosing frequency must be expressed in words as the number of times "a day" the medicine should be taken, rather than the number of times "daily" the medicine should be taken, e.g.: "ONCE a day", "TWICE" a day, "THREE times a day" or "FOUR times a day".

Update to the Point of Care Site onboarding process and guidance in preparation for the AW-25 COVID-19 & flu campaign

Vaccination sites must use one of the assured Point of Care (PoC) systems for their delivery model (GP, community pharmacy or hospital / vaccination centres) to record vaccinations for the AW25 national COVID-19 and flu vaccination programmes.

For Community Pharmacies, NHS England Midlands has previously commissioned a region-wide PoC service to support pharmacy delivery of seasonal flu. This will change for 2025/26 with Community Pharmacy Point of Care provision for the national flu programme now being commissioned under the national contract with suppliers.

Successfully awarded PoC providers are currently undergoing assurance, with five expected to be certified for recording both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Progress can be viewed on the following link [Community pharmacy - NHS England Digital](#) and more details on each PoC system can also be found on the following link [FutureNHS](#) (login required).

Once the PoCs have been assured you will need to make a choice of PoC. Contact with PoC providers will be possible **from 7 August 2025** (subject to assurance completion).

When selecting an NHSE assured PoC provider you will need to contact your chosen provider directly to set up new accounts. You may continue with your current assured PoC system unless notified otherwise.

After assurance is complete, you may switch providers using the following link [Switching PoC system - Vaccinations and Screening - Futures](#)

For System onboarding please follow the guidance on the following NHS Futures link [Point of Care Systems Community Pharmacy - Vaccinations and Screening - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)

Should you have any queries once you have reviewed the information on the following links [FutureNHS](#) or [Community pharmacy - NHS England Digital](#), please contact the Vaccination and Screening Public Health Commissioning Team for the Midlands via the following email address england.vaccsadmin-emids@nhs.net

New application route to rearrange core opening hours

From 23rd June pharmacy owners can apply to change their core opening hours using a new, simplified application route. This route focuses on the needs of people who regularly use the pharmacy, rather than the wider local area. ICBs are also required to consider the business needs of the pharmacy in all applications. For more information follow this link; [What you need to know](#)

Briefing: Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England

Community Pharmacy England have published a short summary of the key pharmacy-focused elements of the Government's new 10 Year Health Plan, aimed at supporting pharmacy owners and their teams to understand what it means for them. Click on the following link for more information; [Read and download the briefing](#)

Levemir Insulin Medicine Supply Notification

A Tier 2 medicine supply notice has been issued for Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® Penfill® 100 units/ml cartridges. Both products are being discontinued, with remaining stock expected to be available until the end of 2026. For more information follow this link; [More details here](#)

MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Depo-Medrone 80 mg in 2 mL, Maxearn Limited EL(25)A/29

A batch of Depo-Medrone has been released to the market with an error. The vial over label incorrectly states that the total vial content is 40 mg in 1 mL, when the correct total vial content is 80mg in 2 mL (with a concentration of 40mg/ml of methylprednisolone acetate).

Full information can be found in the recall published on the MHRA website at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/class-2-medicines-recall-depo-medrone-80-mg-in-2-ml-maxearn-limited-el-25-a-slash-29>