

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
Happy Christmas and A Happy New Year	2
Nottinghamshire County Council Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment	2
Antiviral Medicines Against Influenza.....	2
Original Pack Dispensing	3
Emergency Hormonal Contraception Community Pharmacy Tender in Nottinghamshire County.....	3
Prescribing Hint and Tips Newsletter	4
ADHD Medication Shortages	4
Area Prescribing Committee Update.....	5
Digital Learning Solutions	5
“FS” Endorsed Prescriptions	5
Assisted Dying Bill Debate.....	5

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.

Happy Christmas and A Happy New Year

At this busy time of year, we know Community Pharmacy teams are working immensely hard. We would like to say thank you for all that you do for the People of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Nottinghamshire County Council Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Section 128A of the National Health Service Act 2006, (NHS Act 2006) requires each Health and Wellbeing board to assess the need for pharmaceutical services in its area and to publish a statement of its assessment – the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

Nottingham County Council have commenced work on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and as part of this have a short survey for the pharmacy owner or main pharmacist to fill out which can be accessed on this link here; [Nottinghamshire County Health and Wellbeing Board Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) 2025 Pharmacy Contractor Questionnaire - Nottinghamshire County Council - Citizen Space](#). The survey closes on 12th January 2025.

There is a survey for the general public too, which can be accessed on this link here; [Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) 2025 - Nottinghamshire County Council - Citizen Space](#). This survey closes on 31st January 2025.

Antiviral Medicines Against Influenza

The Department of Health and Social Care has notified via the Central Alerting system, (CAS) that flu levels are increasing in the Community, so that prescribers in primary care may now prescribe and Community Pharmacists may now supply oseltamivir and Zanamivir for prophylaxis and treatment of flu on NHS prescriptions. You can read the CAS alert here; [CAS-ViewAlert](#).

Community Pharmacies, especially those supplying care homes, may wish to consider keeping some oseltamivir and zanamivir in stock so that patients can start taking the medication as soon as possible and within the time periods given in the CAS alert attachment.

Original Pack Dispensing

Community Pharmacy England have produced some resources to support Community Pharmacy with the changes around original pack dispensing coming in on 1st January 2025 which can be viewed here [Amendments to pharmacy regulations to introduce OPD +/- 10% dispensing - Community Pharmacy England](#). This includes some Frequently Asked Questions.

Emergency Hormonal Contraception Community Pharmacy Tender in Nottinghamshire County

Nottinghamshire County Council is recommissioning Emergency Hormonal Contraceptive (EHC) service provision, within community pharmacy, from April 2025. This recommissioning is in response to national procurement changes, which will affect the way that healthcare services are procured.

EHC provision within community pharmacy is considered as an important part of the sexual health system. It offers timely access to contraception and sexual health advice in order to contribute to reducing unplanned pregnancies, particularly for those at greatest risk of adverse sexual health outcomes. Community pharmacies are conveniently located in the heart of communities, with long opening hours and trained clinical staff who reflect the diversity of their communities.

Public health commissioners have worked closely with community pharmacies and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee and have increased the consultation fee to £15 and have streamlined the service specification to reduce the requirement to sign lots of documentation.

The new specification integrates the EHC offer with the contraceptive element of the Pharmacy First Service. Providing oral contraceptives during an EHC consultation ensures immediate access to a more sustainable and ongoing form of contraceptive. Pharmacies will also be able to opt into an additional condom delivery service (Component B) to make the most of the opportunity to offer under 25-year-olds free condoms at the end of an EHC consultation.

The new contract will be for a period of three plus two (3+2) years. To sign up to this service, pharmacies must register at this website www.eastmidstenders.org and register an interest in the service using this link: [Supply of Emergency Hormonal Contraception](#) by Tuesday 28th February 2025.

Prescribing Hint and Tips Newsletter

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Hints and Tips Newsletter often contains information of benefit to Community Pharmacy teams so is published on the Community Pharmacy section of the Medicines Optimisation website which can be viewed here; [Community Pharmacy - Nottinghamshire Medicines Optimisation Team](#).

The November edition includes:

- Information about an error in liquid dosage following a change in product due to a shortage and a link to the local guidance “Principles when prescribing and switching liquid medication preparations and strengths”. A direct link to this document can also be viewed here; [principles-when-prescribing-and-switching-liquid-medication-preparations.pdf](#)
- Repeat prescriptions for Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) kwikpen® should usually be for one pen only as a pen contains 4 doses i.e. 28 days’ supply.

ADHD Medication Shortages

Due to ongoing ADHD medication shortages, there is local guidance which can be viewed through the following links:

- [1-adults-primary-care-management-during-adhd-medication-shortage.pdf](#)
- [2-children-primary-care-management-during-adhd-medication-shortages.pdf](#).

This guidance includes the following recommendations:

- **12-hour Prolonged-Release Methylphenidate tablets and Lisdexamfetamine capsules** can be prescribed generically.
- **8-hour Modified-Release Methylphenidate capsules**, however, **MUST be prescribed and dispensed by brand** due to differences in their release profiles. Please do not ask the prescriber to issue a generic prescription for 8-hour Modified-Release Methylphenidate capsules. Instead, it would be helpful to inform the prescriber of the available brand so the prescription can be amended accordingly.

For further information and more resources please use this link [ADHD Shortages - Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee](#)

Area Prescribing Committee Update

The Area Prescribing Committee update can be viewed here [Webinars - Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee](#). The November update includes:

- Changes in local antimicrobial guidelines
- Hypothyroidism in pregnancy
- Benzodiazepines and Z-hypnotics - guidance on prescribing and deprescribing
- Agomelatine Information Sheet
- Type 2 Diabetes in Young adults

Digital Learning Solutions

If you have ever struggled with an email inbox and wondered if you could set up rules or folders the digital learning solution offer may be of help. Digital learning solutions is available to Community Pharmacy and includes outlook and other IT training. To access this free of charge training

- Visit the website here; <https://www.dls.nhs.uk>
- Select Centre - Midlands Digital Skills Development Network
- Primary Email Address - Your NHS email address

Registrations are approved as soon as possible; however, it is not an automatic-approval system and therefore instant access will not be granted. Please allow time to register a week before you wish to start your learning.

For support and queries about accessing the NHS Digital Learning Solutions training courses, please contact SDN@nottshc.nhs.uk

“FS” Endorsed Prescriptions

“FS” endorsed items are supplied free of charge as part of sexual health treatment. Community Pharmacy England have produced a fact sheet about “FS” endorsed prescriptions which can be viewed here [Guidance on handling ‘FS’ endorsed prescriptions for free supply of sexual health treatments - Community Pharmacy England](#). This is to help Community Pharmacy teams understand when the endorsement is used and the treatments it covers.

Assisted Dying Bill Debate

The UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers have issued some guidance for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who may want to be involved in this debate. This advice can be viewed here; [Assisted dying bill debate: advice to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians from the UK chief pharmaceutical officers - GOV.UK](#)