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Newsletter

22th November 2024

Week 48

This newsletter contains important information for
Community Pharmacy Kent owners and staff in Kent & Medway



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Other newsletters:

- NHSE Primary Care Bulletin update
- Medicines Optimisation newsletter



BBC Radio Kent Interview

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for attending Community Pharmacy Kent update webinar on Wednesday 20th November. These webinars are useful in helping us keep you updated on what is happening across the system so we are not working in isolation. I encourage you to continue engaging with them.

On Thursday 21st November 2024 I had the opportunity to appear on BBC Radio Kent, second time in two weeks, to discuss the funding crisis in community pharmacy. The segment also included a response from the Government, which

was a positive step forward.

Thank you again for your continued support.

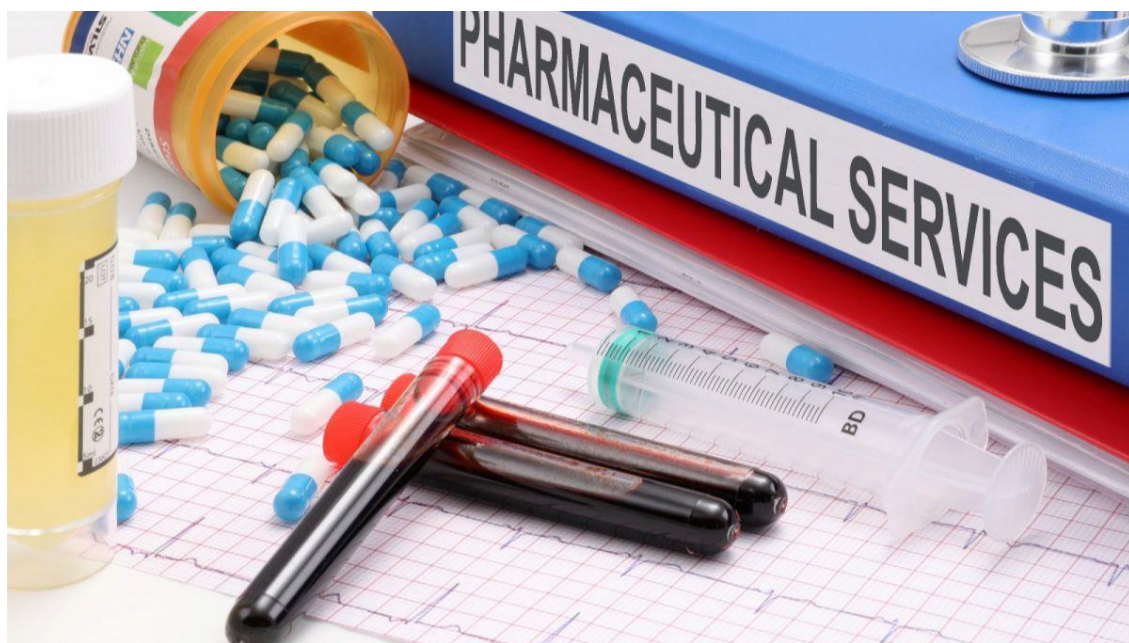
Have a great weekend.

To listen to the full interview, click the link

below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSLVOj2hrY4&feature=youtu.be>



Mark Anyaegbuna
CEO Community Pharmacy Kent



Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Kent Health and Wellbeing Board (KWB) for Kent Community Pharmacy Contractors Only

Kent County Council (KCC) is currently developing a revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which is a legal requirement every three years and statutory responsibility of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

The PNA will be used by NHS England, Kent County Council (KCC), and the Integrated Care Boards to decide whether to approve the opening of new pharmacies and inform commissioning decisions related to other services that could be delivered by pharmacies and other providers.

We would be grateful if you would answer some questions about your pharmacy and the services it provides.

To access the short questionnaire please go to [Questionnaire for Pharmacy Contractors | Let's talk Kent](#) **before 13 December 2024.**



Pharmacy owners: please ask your patients to give feedback on Pharmacy First

Community Pharmacy England and Healthwatch England have launched an online Pharmacy First patient survey that pharmacy owners can direct patients to after receiving the service.

The aim of this collaboration is to collect patient feedback on the service to help inform service improvements and to help to quantify the value of the service to the public.

Pharmacy teams providing Pharmacy First are asked to help promote the survey using the resources we have developed. To encourage as many responses as possible, the survey has been designed to be quick and easy to complete; during testing, most patients took around two minutes to complete it

Click [here](#) for more information.

The short link to the survey is: bit.ly/PharmacyFirstSurvey
[PDF copy of the survey questions](#)



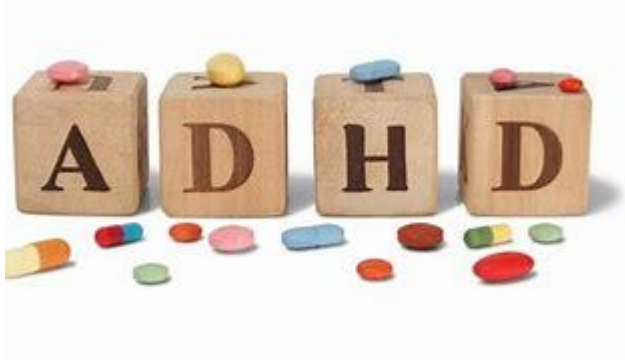
Community Pharmacy England - Original Pack Dispensing webinar

Community Pharmacy England is hosting a webinar on Original Pack Dispensing (OPD) on **Monday 25th November, at 7:30pm**. This session will outline recent regulatory changes allowing pharmacies the flexibility to dispense up to +/- 10% of prescribed quantities in original packs starting in January 2025.

Our in-house experts will talk viewers through what these regulatory changes mean in practice and how you may need to amend your dispensing processes, as well as providing an update on reimbursement and IT arrangements.

Participants are welcome to submit questions to [our Regulations Team](#) in advance to help shape the event.

Click the [link here](#) to book a place.



ADHD Medicines Supply Disruption update 20.11.24

Attached below is the latest information on the ADHD medicines supply shortage, including updates to the clinical information and re-supply dates.

The ICB have had reports of patients being switched between brands of methylphenidate prolonged release. In some cases, this has had an adverse effect on patients. Before switching brands, please refer to “Methylphenidate modified-release bioequivalent alternative” table included in the attached supply update. Please refer to specialist service if required

Click [here](#) to view the document.



Oriel Recruitment of Trainee Pharmacists 2026/ 2027:
Information and support for current and prospective employers in the South East region

The National Recruitment System will open in January-February 2025 for employers to submit their training programmes for 2026/27 trainee pharmacists.

To support employers in both primary and secondary care, the South East Pharmacy Workforce Leads and NHS England WT&E South East Pharmacy Team are hosting online webinars in November 2024.

The focus of these webinars will be the development of multi-sector training programmes, including rotation options and supervision requirements.

This is a reminder for the final webinar on **Wednesday 27th November 1pm to 2pm.**

[Join the meeting here](#); Meeting ID: 327 482 786 73, Passcode: mTAK9o.



Central flu procurement and supply – call for provider engagement

The [NHS England Vaccination Strategy](#) set an ambition to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of vaccine supply. As part of this, the aim is to explore the potential costs and benefits of centralising the procurement and supply of adult flu vaccine.

NHS England want to hear from providers of the adult flu vaccination service about the current procurement model and how this supports delivery of the flu

programme. Providers are invited to complete [a questionnaire](#) which takes 15-20 minutes and is anonymous. The deadline for completion is close **Tuesday 17 December 2024**. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide feedback.



QIV-HD, a first line vaccine for the 65 yrs and over is available to order

In line with Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice and as stated in the [national flu immunisation programme 2024/25 letter](#) flu providers should always use the best available flu vaccines. QIV-HD, a first line vaccine for the 65 yrs and over cohort is available to order from Sanofi. To place an order please contact Sanofi on 0800 854 430 (select option1).

Please note that an alternative second line vaccine should only be used if there is no first line vaccine available to order. Providers are advised to rearrange clinics or signpost people to alternative providers until they have a first line vaccine available.



Empower your patients with the NHS App!

Patients can now order their repeat prescriptions quickly and securely via the NHS App.

This should reduce prescription queries by enabling patients to track their medication requests. The app also help patients access trusted NHS services, health advice, and their medical records anytime.

Make the NHS App part of your patient conversations – it's a simple tool that can improve access to care and save time for both patients and pharmacy teams.

Please see links to promotional resources to display in your community pharmacies - [*View prescriptions in the NHS App \(promotional pack\) - NHS England Digital*](#)

Further guidance about how patients can maximise the app for prescriptions can be found here - [*Digital prescriptions in the NHS App - NHS England Digital*](#)
Please see links to useful videos on how to use the app - [*NHS App walk through videos - NHS England Digital*](#)

If you have any further queries regarding the NHS App and how it can support your patients, please reach out to the NHS Kent and Medway ICB Transformation Team on Kmicb.gptransformation@nhs.net



Service case study: Medway vape pilot

Seven community pharmacies across Medway are participating in a pilot to include vaping (e-cigarettes) as a treatment option within their locally commissioned stop smoking service.

Community pharmacy smoking cessation advisors will provide eligible patients with a voucher for a starter kit and a supply of up to four weeks worth of vape liquid. E-cigarettes will then be obtained directly by the patient, using a voucher code system from a provider selected by the Medway Public Health Team.

Click the link to read more [Service case study: Medway vape pilot - Community Pharmacy England](#)

Community Pharmacy Kent was mentioned in this article



Engaging with the NHS 10-Year Plan: Join CPE webinar

Community Pharmacy England will be hosting two webinars to discuss the Government's NHS 10-year plan and to help pharmacy owners or others who want to feed into it.

Last month the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care launched a [national conversation on the NHS](#), seeking input and ideas to shape the future of a reformed health service via the change.nhs.uk portal. Healthcare organisations including Community Pharmacy England have also been invited to make formal submissions and support policy working groups. This is all aimed at informing a 10-year plan for the NHS.

Date: Tuesday 26th November 2024

Time: 7.30pm

To learn more and book a space click this link [Engaging with the NHS 10-Year Plan: Join our webinars - Community Pharmacy England](#)



Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2024

Reminder of the requirement to complete the 2024 workforce survey, which is a **mandatory requirement**. The NHS Business Services Authority sent an email to pharmacy contractors containing a link to the survey in October.

In some cases, for example, if you work for a multiple pharmacy group, the survey may be completed centrally. If you are not sure whether the survey should be completed at pharmacy level or by your head office team, please ask your head office team for guidance.

The survey will close at midnight on Wednesday 11th December 2024.



VIRTUAL
OUTCOMES

Online Training for Community Pharmacy Teams

Virtual Outcome

We confirm that **Community Pharmacy Kent** has renewed the **Virtual Outcomes Subscription** on behalf of all Kent LPC contractors for another year. This ensures that all **Kent & Medway pharmacy contractors** will continue to have **free access** to the extensive online library of training resources.

New Training Modules Available

Pharmacies in Kent and Medway can now access the following new online training modules:

- **Pharmacy First**
- **Fungal Infections**
- **Acne**

How to Access Virtual Outcomes Training

1. Visit [Virtual Outcomes Pharmacy Training](#).
2. Enter your pharmacy's **F Code**.
3. Select the training menu for the course you wish to view.
4. Click "**Start Course**".
5. Complete the registration form.



- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin update.](#)

- [Medicines Optimisation newsletter](#)

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