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Newsletter

21st February 2025

Week 08

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



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Annual flu letter for 2025/26 published

DHSC/UKHSA/NHS England updated their annual flu letter yesterday to subtly amend the table that details the priority vaccines for use in 2025/26.

Click this link to read more <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/annual-flu-letter-for-2025-26-published/>

**Aged 18 to 64 years in clinical risk group
(including pregnant women)**

First line (listed alphabetically)

- adjuvanted (aTIV) (in those from 50 years of age)
- or cell-culture (TIVc)
- or high dose (TIV-HD/QIV-HD) (in those from 60 years of age)
- or recombinant (TIVr/QIVr)

Second line

- egg-culture (TIVe/QIVe) only reimbursed as set out in the [section on ordering](#) below

Aged 65 years and over

First line (listed alphabetically)

- adjuvanted (aTIV)
- or high dose (TIV-HD/QIV-HD)
- or recombinant (TIVr/QIVr)

Second line

- cell-culture (TIVc) only reimbursed in the [section on ordering](#) below



Pharmacy First Referrals from NHS 111- feedback survey for the South East Region

South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust (SECAMB) are looking for feedback on how we may improve the referral pathway for patients referred to community pharmacies from NHS 111- we want to work together to make sure this service is as successful as possible in the South East.

Please complete the survey form to leave the feedback;

<https://forms.office.com/e/YUepmupB0a>



Look Alike Sound Alike (LASA) drugs- Promazine and Promethazine

“Promazine” and “Promethazine” can easily be confused and are available in the same strengths. Promazine is a phenothiazine-type, first generation (typical) antipsychotic with relatively weak antipsychotic activity but pronounced sedative effects. The BNF suggest that this drug is “less suitable” for prescribing due to its high toxicity in overdose and side effect profile. It is not on formulary in Kent and Medway and is also not on the KMPT (mental health trust) formulary so should rarely be seen in practice.

If you receive a prescription for promazine and you have not supplied it to that patient before, please consider the risk of prescribing error during your clinical checks and contact the prescriber for clarification where appropriate.



Change NHS: a health service fit for the future

As part of the 10-Year Health Plan engagement, the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England, are hosting a series of in person staff deliberative events across the seven NHS regions.

On **Tuesday 25 February** colleagues across **the South East** will have the

chance to share their ideas, experiences, and priorities with NHS leaders.

Our NHS is built on a strong set of principles of – **everyone counts** - as a valued member of staff who works to improve patient care and experience and to improve the nation's health, your voice counts.

Whether you have a little to say or a lot, your views, experience, and ideas will shape immediate steps and long-term changes: a new 10-Year Health Plan for the NHS.

You can engage in Change NHS by using change.nhs.uk – where you can tell us about your own experiences to help us prioritise key challenges facing health and care or suggest an idea for improving the NHS.



EPS token submission and factsheet

Community Pharmacy England has published a new [factsheet](#) to help pharmacy teams familiarise themselves with Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) token submission requirements.

The factsheet outlines which tokens must be sent to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) as part of their end-of-month submission, including those for paid or exemption declarations and Pharmacy First consultations, and which are not required, such as those for age-exempt patients and where exemptions have been confirmed by Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC).

Click the link to read more [Reminder: EPS token submission - Community Pharmacy England](#)



Oriel – National Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme 2025 - Invitation to Participate

Trainee Pharmacists: Employer Registration for National Recruitment Cycle (Oriel) Now Open

Employers wishing to be part of 2025 national recruitment, for the 2026-27 training year, must register via the [employer programme information online form](#). All employers will need to provide programme specific information and agree to meet the [terms of participation](#) of the scheme.

The deadline to submit your application is **11.59pm on 1st March 2025**.

For all further information please refer to the [Employer Handbook](#).

Click this link to listen to Oriel

webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lYigf2QdY0U>



[RCGP/RPS Repeat Prescribing Toolkit lunch and learn workshop Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite.](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the Royal College of GPs (RCGP) recently released a practical toolkit designed to support General Practice teams and Primary Care Networks to improve the consistency, safety and efficiency of their repeat prescribing processes and systems.

To support GP teams and Primary Care Networks keen to implement the toolkit, the ICB have partnered with Health Innovation Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS HIN).

As a first step we are inviting colleagues from general practice and community pharmacy to attend an on-line lunchtime workshop, hosted by KSS HIN on Teams. Clare Howard, Clinical lead author and Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society will lead the session, outlining the contents of the toolkit and how to approach its implementation.

Three identical sessions are available to book through the [Eventbrite link here:](#)

- Tuesday April 29th at 12pm
- Tuesday May 6th at 12pm
- Thursday May 15th at 12pm



Tax credit exemptions no longer valid from 6 April 2025

From 5th April 2025, tax credit exemption certificates will no longer be valid for free NHS prescriptions, as patients transition from tax credits to Universal Credit, which does not automatically cover health costs, so patients must meet specific criteria or qualify for another exemption.

The 'Tax Credit exemption certificate' (EPS code 0013 or 'M' on paper forms) will

be removed from 6th April 2025. However, prescriptions dispensed before 5th April 2025 using this exemption category can still be claimed after the change.

[Learn more](#)



Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2025 workshop now on-demand

Pharmacy owners can now watch the recording of our online workshop about completing the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit for 2025/2026](#).

During the webinar, representatives from Community Pharmacy England and NHS England's Toolkit Team discussed the Toolkit changes and questions, talked delegates through the available guidance materials, and answered questions about making the declaration.



Public health role of the community pharmacy workforce – seeking views from pharmacy technicians and non-registered staff

We have a pharmacy technician doing a PHD and looking for community pharmacy technicians who may be prepared to participate in an interview to support her research

The types of participants that I think you may be able to help me to recruit are set out below:

- Pharmacy technicians working within any type of community pharmacy
- Non-registered staff (e.g. dispensers, medicines counter assistants) working within any type of community pharmacy

If you are happy to participate then please use this link to complete an electronic consent form [[link](#)].

Click this link to read more (**web link**)



DHSC and NHS England - Medicine Supply Communications Survey

The Medicine Supply Team in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS Medicines Procurement and Supply Chain team (MPSC) in NHS England are reviewing how supply issues are communicated to healthcare professionals.

To support this review, we are conducting a survey to gather insights on how healthcare organisations and healthcare professionals receive and address Medicine Supply Notifications. Your feedback will help us improve our communication and management of medicine supply issues, ensuring continuity of supply and minimising risks to patients.

Please do take the time to share your experiences and insights by completing the [Medicine Supply Communications Survey](#) and kindly share this invitation with your colleagues to help us gather diverse insights from across healthcare organisations.

The survey will close on 25 February 2025.



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