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**Newsletter**

**14th February 2025**

**Week 07**

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



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## **National Flu Immunisation Programme 2025 to 2026 Letter**

Please follow this link [National flu immunisation programme plan 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#) to see the letter published today by NHSE, DHSC and UKHSA providing guidance for the 2025/26 flu vaccination programme.

The tripartite letter sets out who is eligible for a flu vaccine in autumn/winter 2025/26, which adult and child vaccines will be reimbursed and the timing of the programme to allow providers to plan for a successful vaccination campaign.

The eligible cohorts and the timing of the 2025/26 flu vaccination programme remain the same as the 2024/25 season. All flu vaccines recommended for 2025/26 are now trivalent formulations in line with JCVI advice, and aTIV (previously aQIV) is now licensed from 50 years and over.

Providers are asked to ensure that sufficient volumes of 1st line adult vaccines are ordered to meet anticipated demand and to start planning early to ensure successful delivery of the programme with the aim of improving uptake.

The autumn/winter 2025/26 flu and COVID-19 system letter will be published later in the year which will confirm the start date and alignment of the programmes.

For CPE update click [Annual flu letter for 2025/26 published - Community Pharmacy England](#)

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## **Pharmacy Workforce Early Careers Funding Support - Formal Expression of Interest. Deadline 28th February 2025**

Nationally, and within Kent and Medway, there is an identified workforce priority to ensure Newly Qualified and Early Careers Pharmacy Professionals are supported to meet the requirements of the Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists (IETP) reform work, as outlined in the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

This offer of expression of interest is open to all sectors of pharmacy in Kent and Medway providing care to NHS patients.

Once an expression of interest for an organisation has been completed, the person submitting the request will be contacted by NHS Kent and Medway Pharmacy Workforce Team to organise a Teams meeting to explore the request further. As part of this discussion, how the request meets individual development, organisation needs and local population health priorities will be questioned.

Deadline for completion of this funding request is **28th February 12 noon.**

**Inclusion criteria for funding consideration:** Modules of early career PGCert and PGDip programmes for pharmacists (including generalist and specialist focussed programmes) Ø Post-registration Clinical Diploma modules for Pharmacy Technicians, Ø Pharmaceutical Technology & Quality Assurance (PTQA) courses Ø Accuracy Checking for Pharmacy Technicians Ø Other education programmes/modules and training requests will be considered if they benefit either individual or cohorts of Newly Qualified and/or Early Careers pharmacy professionals.

**Exclusion criteria:** This funding must not duplicate other nation, regional or local funding and investment streams from NHS England for example, Independent Prescribing, Adult Critical Care training for Pharmacy Professionals and any training already available through CPPE or the Pharmacy Integration Fund Ø Funding for supervision for the Newly Qualified Pharmacist Pathway in Acute, Mental Health and Community Health NHS Trusts Ø Individual requests for modules/programmes mapped to Advanced and Consultant level practice that do not benefit the Newly Qualified and/or Early Careers pharmacy workforce

See the link to the survey

here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sITDN7CF9Ueylge0jXdO469fg4obEjNBqiXhHHSsrypUOTUzWkdRMjk2M01OVlU3NUdSWjhGRzYzQS4u>

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The logo for 'forward' is displayed in a stylized font. The word 'forward' is written in a lowercase, sans-serif typeface. The letters 'f', 'o', 'r', 'w', 'a', 'r', and 'd' are in a dark blue color, while the letter 'd' at the end is a lighter, teal-blue color.

### **Forward Trust – Updated Contact Numbers**

Please note that the Forward Trust's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) number for East Kent has changed.

For 24-hour telephone assistance, please use the new number: **0300 304 8007**.

For Medway, the SPOC number remains **0300 123 1560**.

Kindly update your records and share this information as needed.

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### **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.

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

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## **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](#)

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## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>



**CPPE online NHS Pharmacy First workshop**

CPPE have limited spaces left on our [NHS Pharmacy First: Clinical assessment – essential skills online workshops](#), where you can learn alongside other pharmacists with the benefit of a **GP medical practitioner** expert sharing their expertise to work through case studies, to help you apply your knowledge and further your skills.

Secure your place to learn in the comfort of your own environment on either **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February or Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am – 1:30pm** [here](#).

The aim of this learning programme is to support pharmacy professionals to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to undertake effective consultations, communications and clinical assessments in order to provide the NHS Pharmacy First Service. This learning is currently only open for pharmacists and trainee pharmacists.

We look forward to working with you at these interactive workshops.

If you have any queries regarding booking either contact Tanya on [tanya.gray@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.gray@cppe.ac.uk) or [info@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:info@cppe.ac.uk)

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### **Reporting Safety Incidents in Clinical Services using Learn from Patient Safety Events Service (LFPSE)**

NHS Kent and Medway would like to remind pharmacies of the importance of reporting safety incidents. This includes those that result from commissioned clinical services and patient consultations.

Pharmacies must have a patient safety incident log for all incidents, which captures the information set out in the [Approved Particulars](#). Patient safety incidents must be reported to the [Learn from Patient Safety Events Service \(LFPSE\)](#) and when reporting please use the defined levels of physical and psychological harm grades.

A record of the LFPSE report reference number should be kept within the pharmacy as part of the incident log.

Some ICBs have published a guide on what to include in a LFPSE report – the following is a link to the guide from Frimley ICB which may be helpful: [What to include in a LFPSE report](#).

We want to use patient safety incidents to generate good learning points and help us avoid them in the future. Reporting incidents helps us identify themes and create mitigations and



**Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2025**



Community Pharmacy England's annual Pressures Survey remains open to gather as much evidence as possible from pharmacy owners and their team members on key issues affecting our sector, including medicines supply, workforce challenges, the Pharmacy First service, and more.

We greatly appreciate your responses, especially during this busy time. The results of this survey will directly support our work in demonstrating the impact of the ongoing crisis in our sector.

Click the link to complete the survey [Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2025: It's time to share your views - Community Pharmacy England](#)

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#### **Manage Your Service (MYS) Pharmacy portal- Essential maintenance**

[Manage Your Service \(MYS\) Pharmacy portal](#) will be unavailable due to essential maintenance between 7am and 6pm on the following days:

- **Saturday 8 February 2025**
- **Saturday 15 February 2025**

This means that you will not be able access the service, enter data, or view/manage your submissions during those days.

If you have any questions, contact NHSBSA:

- [mys@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:mys@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)
- 0300 330 1368

They are available Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

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### **Free Virtual Outcome Training for Kent Community Pharmacists**

All **Virtual Outcomes** training modules are **free** for Kent community pharmacists and their teams, with each module lasting **15-20 minutes**.

The latest modules include:

- **Compliance Aids** – Explore alternative ways to support patients who struggle with taking their medicines effectively.
- **Skin Conditions** – Gain up-to-date, practical advice on managing common skin conditions seen in daily practice.

These bite-sized modules provide valuable insights to help improve patient care.

Just enter your ODS code to get access to all the course

Click the link to start [Pharmacy Training - Virtualoutcomes](#)



- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin update.](#)
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**Community Pharmacy Kent**

Address: The Hill Hub, 1A Highfield Road, Dartford, DA1 2JH

Tel: 01634 649101 | Email: Admin@kentlpc.org.uk

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