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Newsletter

14th March 2025

Week 11

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



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- [Pharmacy First Threshold](#)
- MHRA Drug Safety Update

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Provision of RSV and Pertussis vacs from May 2025

NHS England has published an [invitation to tender](#) (ITT) inviting community pharmacy owners interested in providing a Community Pharmacy Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Pertussis Vaccination Enhanced Service.

Announcement of the tender, follows on from the [September 2024 introduction of the RSV vaccination programme](#) in general practice and NHS trusts and the initial commissioning of up to 50 early adopter community pharmacy sites to also provide RSV vaccinations in the East of England. Pharmacy owners wishing to be considered must respond to the ITT by **5:00PM on Monday 31st March 2025**.



Pharmacy First

Pharmacy First March: Threshold Increased to 30

Pharmacy First: The activity threshold for March is 30. A minimum of 30 consultations are to be completed to pass the gateway point to be eligible for the £1,000 monthly payment.

Ensure pharmacy team members are aware of the increase in activity threshold and discuss actions that can support the team to reach the increased target.



MHRA Drug Safety Update: Use of prolonged-release opioids in post-operative pain

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued guidance regarding the use of prolonged-release opioids in post-operative pain. The indication for the treatment of post-operative pain has been removed from the licences of all prolonged release opioids including prolonged-release morphine and prolonged-release oxycodone, due to the increased risk of persistent post-operative opioid use (PPOU) and opioid-induced ventilatory impairment (OIVI). It is not recommended to use transdermal patches for the treatment of post-operative pain.

Click [here](#) to read more



Update on the use of Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) for managing overweight and obesity

NHS Kent and Medway has issued an update regarding the implementation of NICE technology appraisal TA 1026 which concerns the use of tirzepatide (Mounjaro) for managing overweight and obesity.

The update specifies that, at present, Mounjaro should not be prescribed for managing overweight and obesity in primary care settings. This directive does not affect patients who are prescribed Mounjaro in accordance with NICE guidance for treating type 2 diabetes (NICE TA 924).

Click [here](#) to read the update.



Getting the most out of NHSmail

Pharmacy owners must ensure, staff have access to the pharmacy's shared NHSmail mailbox and can send/receive emails from it. At least two staff members at the pharmacy premises have live personal NHSmail accounts linked to the shared mailbox.

Below are

some tips to help full utilisation of your NHSmail.

Keep it active: Use your NHSmail account at least once every 30 days to keep it active.

Regularly check: Ensure the pharmacy has a premises-specific NHSmail account accessible by staff, with at least two linked personal NHSmail accounts.

Use Microsoft Teams: for efficient collaboration through audio, text, and video communication

For technical issues and escalation in regards to NHSmail, click [here](#).



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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