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**Newsletter**

**28th March 2025**

**Week 13**

This newsletter contains important information for Pharmacy Owners and Staffs in Kent & Medway



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**Spring Summer COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

The programme will run from 1st April - 17th June 2025. People will be eligible for vaccination this Spring/Summer if they meet one or more of the following:

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a; Tables 3 and 4.

If you are not offering Covid vaccinations this programme, please direct them to this [website](#).

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## NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: delivering effective consultations to initiate oral contraception

### Dear Colleague

We are pleased to introduce our [NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: delivering effective consultations to initiate oral contraception](#), designed to support you in shared decision-making with individuals who are starting, restarting, or changing oral contraception within the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS). This is open to all pharmacy professionals delivering the service.

#### *Programme Highlights:*

- Shared Decision Making: Gain insights into reaching a shared decision on the appropriate formulation of contraception with your patients.
- Practical Scenarios: Engage with scenarios based on real-life practice to enhance your communication skills in a safe learning environment.
- An opportunity to network with local colleagues delivering the service

#### *Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this programme, you will be able to:*

- Apply person-centred consultation skills to effectively take medical histories.
- Explore the suitability of oral contraception tailored to individual needs, in line with service specifications and patient group directions (PGDs).
- Discuss various contraception options, empowering your patients to make informed choices.

- Provide detailed information on long-acting reversible contraceptives, including their advantages, side effects, and suitability.

*Post-Workshop Panel Discussion:*

Following the workshop, we will host a panel discussion to address any questions you may have. This is a great opportunity to delve deeper into the topics covered and clarify any uncertainties.

Come and join us in Kent this April!

Event: NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: delivering effective consultations to initiate contraception Workshop

- Date: Sunday, 27th April
- Time: 10:00am - 12:00 noon
- Location: Mercure, Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1RE

Do not miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and provide exceptional care to your community. [BOOK HERE](#) Now to ensure your place.

If you have any questions please contact [tanya.gray@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.gray@cppe.ac.uk)



**NHS prescription charge unchanged for April 2025**

The Government has yet to conclude consideration of any increases to prescription charges and prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs) for 2025/26. **The current charges will therefore roll over into April 2025.**

Community Pharmacy England will update community pharmacy teams as soon as any changes are announced by Ministers, including details of when they will be implemented.

In summary:

- For prescriptions dispensed in April 2025, NHS prescription charges will remain at **£9.90 per item**.
- The cost of PPCs (including HRT PPCs) will also remain unchanged for April 2025.

Pharmacies should already be displaying a notice showing the prescription charge and, as there is currently no change, they can continue to use that.

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#### **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.

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### **Supporting NHS Commissioned Service Provision in Your Pharmacy.**

We are excited to share a series of best practices designed to help you optimize NHS-commissioned service provision in your pharmacy. Our goal is to replicate this success across as many pharmacies as possible across Kent.

To achieve this, Adeyinka Jolaoso, Service Development Manager at Kent LPC, will be leading the project and is available to meet with you—either face-to face or virtually—to provide tailored guidance for your practice.

*To book your session, please email [natalia.bejan@kentlpc.org](mailto:natalia.bejan@kentlpc.org) with the following information:*

1. Name of your pharmacy
2. Preferred meeting day and time (please provide two options)
3. Meeting preference: Face-to-face or virtual

We look forward to working together to enhance service delivery and make a positive impact on patient care.



### **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 - Virtual outcomes](#)

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