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Newsletter

4th April 2025

Week 14

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



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CPCF arrangements for 2024/25 and 2025/26 announced

Funding and other arrangements for community pharmacies for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been finalised, with community pharmacy receiving the largest uplift in funding across the whole of the NHS.

Ministers have said the uplift signals the Government's commitment to stabilising the sector, and Government has given a firm commitment to work towards a sustainable funding and operational model for community pharmacies, recognising the key role they will play in future healthcare.

Click this link to read more [CPCF arrangements for 2024/25 and 2025/26 announced - Community Pharmacy England](#)

CPC are running a series of online and in-person events are being held to support pharmacy owners and their teams to understand the new funding and contractual arrangements. They will provide an opportunity to explore what the changes mean for your pharmacy and to help prepare yourself and your team for that.

Click this link to register [Events - Community Pharmacy England](#)

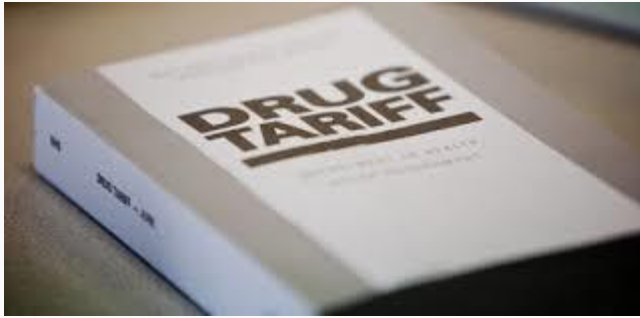
NHS England will also be hosting a webinar for pharmacy contractors on Tuesday 8 April, 6pm-7pm. [Register to join here](#)



NHS Lateral Flow Device Tests Supply Service extension

NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care have confirmed that the community pharmacy NHS Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests Supply Service has been extended for another year, starting 1 April 2025. The item of service (IoS) fee for the service has increased from £4.00 to £4.10

Patient representatives can collect one box of 5 tests from participating pharmacies upon confirmation that the patient is part of the eligible cohort. The full list of eligible patients is available in [NICE guidelines](#), with more information available in the [service specification](#)



April 2025 Category M prices announced

The April 2025 Drug Tariff Category M price list has been published, which includes a £12.3m per quarter margin increase because of the CPCF settlement. Without the agreed uplift included in the settlement, the margin adjustment would have been £36m lower per quarter.

Community Pharmacy England's analysis estimates there will be an overall reimbursement reduction of £13.6m per quarter for like-for-like Category M lines, due to market-driven price adjustments. Click [here](#) to read more.



Take part in the Electronic Prescription Service pilot

The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) team is seeking pharmacies to pilot their new prescription tracker ahead of the launch. Participation includes:

- Dedicating 45 to 60 minutes to speak with a researcher and note-taker via Microsoft Teams, sharing insights about the pharmacy's role and experience with the new prescription tracker.
- Potential site visits to conduct in-person research.

- Providing regular feedback on the new EPS tracker during the pilot phase.

The pilot will run for approximately 6 to 8 weeks between May and June.

Pharmacies can express interest in participating by [filling out this form](#).



Pharmacy First Caps for April 2025

Pharmacy first caps are based on actual service delivery and further details are included in the Part VIC Drug Tariff Determination. Caps are calculated based on a monthly allocation and will be updated each month to reflect latest actual delivery. Activity can be delivered above the monthly cap but the £17 per consultation service fee will not be paid.

Click the link to view the Pharmacy First Cap [NHS Pharmacy First Service \(PFS\) | NHSBSA](#)



GP Connect: Access Record Structured – improving community pharmacy access to patient information

Pharmacists now have real-time, read-only access to additional health information from the patient record. This allows registered professionals to see medication, observation and investigation history during community pharmacy consultations.

Cegedim Rx community pharmacies are live. Other pharmacy IT suppliers will roll out in the near future.

To learn more, Click [here](#)

more information is available on the [GP Connect: Access Record webpages](#)



Complaint Procedure

After 31 March 2025 if people want to make a complaint about primary care services to the commissioner, the way to do this is changing.

Rather than contacting NHS Frimley (SECH), people will contact the NHS Kent and Medway Patient Experience Team via new contact details below:

- Email: kmicb.patientexperience@nhs.net
- Phone: 01634 335095 Option 7
- Post: Patient Experience Team, 2nd Floor, Gail House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6NB.

For more information click the document [here](#);



Spring 2025 COVID-19 vaccination campaign cohorts

The following cohorts have been announced and authorised for COVID-19 vaccination from 1 April to 17 June 2025:

- Adults aged 75 and over
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in the [Green Book, chapter 14a](#))

This includes those who, by 17 June 2025:

- turn 75 years old
- become immunosuppressed
- are new residents in older adult care homes

Priority should be given to older adult care homes and eligible housebound patients. More details on preparing for the spring vaccination campaign are available in this [letter](#).



Payment arrangements for spring 2025 COVID-19 vaccination campaign

From 1 April to 17 June (spring campaign) and 18 June to 30 September (as part

of the year-round offer), the payment for the administration of each dose of COVID-19 vaccination to eligible patients will be:

- £7.54 Item of Service (IoS) fee
- an additional £2.50 (as, during this period, there is no opportunity for co-administration with the seasonal influenza vaccine)

Vaccination of housebound patients (as defined in the payments section of the [general practice and community pharmacy enhanced service specifications](#)) will attract an additional £10 payment per administered vaccine. This payment is not applicable for residents in care homes.



Needlestick Injuries service - poster and leaflet

We would like to remind pharmacies about the service provided by Heales Medical for needlestick injuries that arise from NHS commissioned services.

Please find attached a poster and leaflet which provide information about needlestick injuries and the Heales Helpline. The poster includes a box for you to include your pharmacy ODS code which Heales do need at the point of contact.

Please note that this service does not cover needlestick injuries that arise from private services that are provided by pharmacies.

For poster click [here](#) and for leaflet [here](#).



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

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