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Newsletter

23th May 2025

Week 22

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



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Spring Bank Holiday - 26 May 2025 Posters

Spring Bank Holiday - 26 May 2025 Posters detailing which pharmacies will be open across Kent and Medway is attached [here](#).

A map of the pharmacies that will be open on the Bank Holidays has been created, anybody can access the map via the [link](#).

Please click [here](#) to view the list of pharmacies that will be open on the *26th May Bank Holiday* and providing palliative care services.



Business Services Authority

Switching

Last year, prescription switching led to over £2 million in charges being deducted across all pharmacies due to unsigned FP10 paper prescriptions that were switched from exempt to paid by the NHSBSA.

To address this issue and explain what pharmacy teams can do to help prevent switching, CPE have produced a [short video guide](#). Please review with your team.



LFD Update

Following an update to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) [guidance on antiviral treatment for COVID-19](#), which removes some of the cohorts of patients eligible for these treatments, these changes will also need to be reflected in the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) service.

The changes in the NICE guidance means the following patient cohorts are **no longer eligible** to receive free LFD tests through the service:

- People aged 85 years and over
- People with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device
- People on the organ transplant waiting list

- People resident in a care home who are aged 70 years and over
- People resident in a care home who have a BMI of 35 kg/m² or more
- People resident in a care home who have diabetes
- People resident in a care home who have heart failure
- People currently in a hospital who are aged 70 years and over
- People currently in a hospital who have a BMI of 35 kg/m² or more
- People currently in a hospital who have diabetes
- People currently in a hospital who have heart failure

Pharmacy owners are asked to brief their teams on the changes to the eligible patient cohorts for the service, update their standard operating procedure (SOP) for the service and stop supplying LFD tests to the above patient groups **by Monday 16th June 2025**.



Pharmacy Bundling

Pharmacy owners are reminded that, *from 1st June*, they must be registered and able to deliver the Hypertension Case Finding Service, the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) **and** the Pharmacy First service, in addition to delivering the minimum number of clinical pathway consultations, to achieve the monthly fixed payment for Pharmacy First.

Changes from June will also include a new *fixed payment of £500* for pharmacy owners delivering a minimum of 20 to 29 clinical pathway consultations in a month, with the £1,000 maximum fixed payment for those delivering 30 or more consultations.



Flu and covid vaccination programme evaluation service

As this year's flu and covid vaccination programme for autumn/ winter 2024/25 is now complete, please can you complete a short survey online. This will help inform plans for next year and the team would really appreciate your support in completing it.

Here is the [evaluation survey](#).

We are particularly keen to hear about what went well for you and what may have hindered your efforts.

The findings of the survey will be shared with regional and national colleagues as well as system colleagues.

*The survey will close on **Thursday, 29 May 2025.***



Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025

Please note the CPTAP applications for 2025 is now open.

To read more please click on [this](#) attachment.



OTC and Selfcare

NHS Kent and Medway have been reviewing the OTC support line messaging and are going to be making some changes. One of the changes is to include messaging for patients to visit their community pharmacy for advice and guidance if their GP practice has recently stopped an over the counter (OTC) medicine for self-care.

This only applies if the patients call the helpline for advice and do not have a long-term condition. Click [here](#) to read more.



Data Security and Protection Toolkit – Deadline 30th June 2025

The deadline for community pharmacy contractors to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2025 is 30th June 2025. Click this link for more information [Data Security and Protection Toolkit - Deadline 30th June 2025 - Community Pharmacy England](#)



- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)
 - [Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
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