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Newsletter

30th May 2025

Week 23

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



- [Pharmacy First: Changes to the claim period](#)
- [Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways caps for June 2025](#)
- [Independent Prescribing Funding](#)
- [Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship](#)

- [COVID Vaccination](#)
- [LFD Update](#)
- [Data Security and Protection Toolkit – Deadline 30th June 2025](#)

Other newsletters:

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



Pharmacy First: Changes to the claim period

There is a news story published by the NHSBSA on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), highlighting that from 1st June 2025 pharmacy owners who have not yet claimed for Pharmacy First consultations carried out in March, April and May 2025 must claim these by 11.59 pm on 30th June 2025 to receive payment.

Click [here](#) for more information



Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways caps for June 2025

Pharmacy owners should be aware that the Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways band assignments and monthly caps for June 2025 are published [here](#). Information for all future months will be published here.

The list published by NHSBSA indicates the band assignment and monthly cap for each pharmacy by ODS code.

If a pharmacy ODS is not included in the list, the pharmacy is automatically considered to be in Band 1 (the lowest band).



Independent Prescribing Funding

Applications for NHS England-funded independent prescribing courses are

open.

Courses are available up to March 2026, with several universities offering multiple dates for cohort intakes. Please check with the universities of your choice to confirm the start date.

Pharmacists who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to apply for independent prescribing courses at a variety of universities across England:

1. Community pharmacists (including locum pharmacists)

Eligible pharmacists may apply only to those universities as listed on the [here](#). They will need to demonstrate (as a minimum):

- The support of an identified designated prescribing practitioner (DPP).
- An appropriate practice-based learning environment in a prescribing setting that can offer appropriate clinical support.
- Evidence that you meet the course provider eligibility criteria (applicants will be subject to their chosen university's enrolment processes).
- Commitment to use the skill within your area of competence and expertise, for the delivery of NHS clinical services as they emerge.



Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2025

Please note the CPTAP applications for 2025 is now open.

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



COVID Vaccination

NHS England has opened the procurement process for pharmacies that wish to provide the COVID-19 vaccination service from their healthcare premises from 1st October 2025. This process only applies to:

- Pharmacies not already contracted to provide the service and wishing to apply to provide it from 1st October 2025; and
- Pharmacies already contracted to provide the service but whose contract only runs up until the end of August 2025.

Most pharmacies already providing the service are contracted until 31st March 2026; those pharmacies do not need to reapply to continue to provide the service from October 2025, as their contract already covers provision until 31st March 2026.

Guidance documents and details on how pharmacy owners can submit a response can be found [here](#).

Pharmacy owners who plan to apply to provide the service should read the guidance (which outlines key deadlines and processes) and contractual agreements which are available on the [here](#) and submit their response document by the deadline.

The interim response deadline for submissions for the Autumn/Winter 2025/26 campaign is 11:59pm on **16th June 2025**.



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.**



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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