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**Newsletter**

**15th August 2025**

**Week 34**

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



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**Register for the community pharmacy childhood flu vaccination service by 31 August (Reminder)**

To help improve flu vaccination uptake for children, NHS England is launching a [new flu vaccination service for two and three-year-olds in community pharmacy](#) from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Contractors are reminded that they must register to provide this service on the

NHSBSA's MYS portal by 23:59 on Sunday 31 August if they would like to receive supply of vaccine by the service start date on 1 October 2025.

Before registering for this service, contractors must read the [service specification](#) for the full requirements of service delivery, and consider if they are able to meet these.

Community Pharmacy England, in collaboration with NHS England, will be hosting a webinar on the new Childhood Flu Vaccination Service on **Wednesday 20th August at 7.30pm**.

[Secure your place now](#)



#### **2025/26 Pharmacy Quality Scheme Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Audit guidance**

NHS England has [published guidance](#) to support contractors participating in the 2025/26 Pharmacy Quality Scheme to complete the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Audit. The Clinical Audit helps contractors consider their support to patients seeking help with a sore throat, but who don't meet the criteria for antibiotics under the NHS Pharmacy First Service. It reviews management and actions that promote antimicrobial stewardship and can be used to identify opportunities to improve clinical practice.

The clinical audit can be conducted from 1 September 2025 and must be completed no later than 31 March 2026. Anonymised data captured during the audit should be submitted to NHS England using the online data collection tool, which will be accessible from 1 September 2025 via the [NHSBSA Manage your service \(MYS\) portal](#) and [NHSBSA Pharmacy Quality Scheme webpage](#). Further information about this year's Pharmacy Quality Scheme is available on [NHS England's website](#).

To read more click this link [PQS: Publication of clinical audit - Community Pharmacy England](#)



### **Managing a robust and resilient supply of medicines report**

[Managing a robust and resilient supply of medicines](#), a new report from the Department of Health and Social Care, sets out plans to improve transparency and resilience of UK medicine supply chains.

The report also confirms a planned consultation on giving community pharmacists more flexibility to supply alternative strengths or formulations of prescribed medicines. This would apply in specific cases to improve patient access and experience. The consultation will explore when such flexibility is appropriate, aiming to balance patient safety with the risk of supply issues for other medicines. [Read the full report on the gov.uk website.](#)

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# General Pharmaceutical Council

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### **GPhC refers to emerging concerns**

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has written to its members to highlight some emerging issues that have led to concerns being raised with them. The concerns relate to:

- diversion of medicines by staff;
- checking addresses when supplying medicines at a distance;
- supplying medicines overseas;
- advertising and promotion of medicines;
- supplies of methadone and patient information leaflets (PILs); and
- Yellow Card reporting for GLP-1s

The email containing more information and advice can be found [here](#).

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### **Pharmacies to prepare for national digital phoneline switchover**

The Government is advising community pharmacy owners to take action to prepare for the upcoming national switch-off of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), which is due to be fully decommissioned by January 2027.

In a letter to the sector, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

and the Department for Health and Social Care has outlined what pharmacy owners should do ahead of the telephone network switchover.

[Find out more](#)

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### **ICB Health Campaign**

As part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework, pharmacies are contractually required to take part in 2 National and 2 ICB Health Campaigns. The first ICB health campaign will be to use community pharmacy to communicate details of the dental helpdesk in Kent and Medway available to patients.

Click this [link](#) for *ICB letter to community pharmacies*.

Click this [link](#) to *view the display folder*.

To support this important work, pharmacies are requested to:

- Display the enclosed poster in patient-facing areas to help raise awareness
- Share this information with your teams.
- Signpost patients with urgent dental needs to the Helpdesk
- Return the MS forms which will be emailed to each Provider to confirm completion

For more information, visit [www.stopthinkchoose.co.uk/dental](http://www.stopthinkchoose.co.uk/dental) or email [kmicb.pod@nhs.net](mailto:kmicb.pod@nhs.net)

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# Getting ready for the Flu Vaccination Service: Have you chosen your IT system yet?



## **Choose your Point of Care IT supplier for flu vaccination**

Ahead of IT supplier selection for autumn/winter vaccination services opening from 7th August 2025, pharmacy owners can now find information (including some webinar recordings) that explains the different systems and offerings.

NHS England [previously announced](#) the launch of a new community pharmacy Point of Care (PoC) IT Supplier Contractual Framework, which will allow pharmacy owners to choose which PoC system they use to make their clinical records for the Flu and COVID-19 vaccination services in 2025/26.

[IT suppliers listed on the new framework](#) will be assured by NHS England as having met specific minimum standards. Community pharmacy owners carrying out these services will be able to choose, ahead of the autumn/winter campaigns, one of the assured PoC system.

Click this link to read more [Point of Care Systems Community Pharmacy - Vaccinations and Screening - Futures](#)

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# Kent and Medway Joint Medicines Formulary

## **Soft Launch of the Kent and Medway Joint Medicines Formulary Website**

The ICB have formally announce the soft launch of the **Kent and Medway Joint Medicines Formulary**, now accessible

at: <https://www.kentandmedwayformulary.nhs.uk>

This new formulary represents a significant milestone in our collective ambition to provide equitable, transparent, and system-wide access to medicines across Kent and Medway. It is the result of a coordinated effort between the NHS Kent and Medway ICB Medicines Optimisation team and colleagues from our four secondary care provider trusts, with additional contributions from community and mental health partners.

Community Pharmacy contraception service specification requires adherence to local formulary.

Click this [link](#) to read the *ICB letter*

As this is a soft launch, content will. continue to be refined. Feedback is welcome; please direct any queries or suggestions to [kmicb.formularyenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:kmicb.formularyenquiries@nhs.net)



Online Training for Community  
Pharmacy Teams





### **Skin Rashes in Children - Module 3 Latest FREE\* Online**

To access the FREE course for Kent and Medway Pharmacy contractors visit: [Pharmacy Training - Virtualoutcomes](#)

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### **Discontinuation of FreeStyle Libre 2 – Transition to FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus**

Abbott, the manufacturer, have announced that FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors are being **discontinued at the end of August 2025**. Their next generation sensor-based glucose monitoring technology for people living with diabetes is the FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus, which is available on the NHS BSA Drug Tariff

#### **Actions required:**

- All **existing patients** using the FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor will require their repeat prescription to be changed to the FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus sensor as soon as possible.
- Primary care can switch patients. It should be a smooth transition without having to change anything else other than the sensor prescribed.

Only FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus should be used for **new initiations**

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### **Pharmacy Quality Scheme Resources**

The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) forms part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). PQS is designed to reward community pharmacies for delivering quality criteria that are designed to support clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

Please note, NHS England will not be publishing PQS guidance for pharmacy owners for the 2025/26 Scheme.

Click the link to read more: [Pharmacy Quality Scheme - Community Pharmacy England](#)

Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2025/26 Action and Evidence Portfolio Workbook can be found [here](#).

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**CPPE Workshops**  
**July – September 2025**



### **CPPE workshops July -September 2025**

Click this [link](#) for the list of useful workshops from CPPE

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# Kent and Medway Integrated Care System

## **Kent and Medway Primary Care Wound Care Formulary**

There now a single Kent & Medway wound care formulary next week. We know there a still some FP10 prescribing so is important that community pharmacy colleagues kept informed.

Click the [link](#) to access the *new wound care formulary*.

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- [Primary Care Buletin](#)
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## **Community Pharmacy Kent**

Address: The Hill Hub, 1A Highfield Road, Dartford, DA1 2JH

Tel: 01634 649101 | Email: [Admin@kentlpc.org.uk](mailto:Admin@kentlpc.org.uk)

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