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Newsletter

7th November 2025

Week 42

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



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A Better Medway Awards

I was delighted to attend the Better Medway Awards to present the *Pharmacy of the Year* award to Medway Pharmacy.

Medway Pharmacy is one of only two late-night pharmacies in Medway, providing an essential lifeline to the community. Services like Medway On-Call Care (MedOCC) rely heavily on them when all other services are closed.

MedOCC has shared how Sukdeep Bahia, in particular, consistently goes above and beyond for patients often staying late to ensure essential medicines are collected, sourcing stock during busy holiday periods, and always maintaining a positive attitude.

A member of the MedOCC team summed it up perfectly:

“Sukdeep is an amazing man and a treasure to Medway’s community. Many

residents would really suffer without the care he and his team provide.”

Well done, Sukdeep and the entire Medway Pharmacy team. A truly well-deserved recognition!



Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework update: webinar

NHS England will be hosting a webinar at 7 - 8pm on 18 November to update on progress of the [Community](#)

[Pharmacy Contractual Framework: 2025 - 2026](#). The webinar will provide service specific information on the Pharmacy Contraception Service and the New Medicine Service expansions, and will share findings from the Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme. Pharmacy contractors, pharmacists and other pharmacy colleagues are invited to join this event. [Book your place via the NHS England website.](#)

General Pharmaceutical Council

GPhC consultation on standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians

The General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) [consultation on standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians \(IETPT\)](#) is open until 24 December 2025. It seeks to gather views on proposed draft standards which bring about changes to pharmacy technician initial education and training, such as the level of study, entry requirements, educational supervision requirements, and the learning outcomes. [Find out more on the GPhC's website.](#)



Please continue supporting the Pharmacy First patient survey to help capture vital feedback on the service. This quick, two-minute survey helps demonstrate the value of Pharmacy First to NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and it plays a key role in shaping both local and national improvements.

After eligible consultations, pharmacy teams are encouraged to direct patients to the survey using the posters, flyers, or QR code provided. Every response strengthens the case for the future of Pharmacy First.

[Read more and download the promotional resources](#)

CPPE



CENTRE FOR PHARMACY POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

Last Chance for NHS-Funded ACPT Places – Don't Miss Out!

Time is running out to secure a **fully funded place** on the [Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician \(ACPT\) programme](#) with CPPE.

The ACPT programme is designed to help you take the next step in your pharmacy career. You'll build the confidence and competence to carry out final accuracy checks, enabling the provision of more clinical services like NHS Pharmacy First and supporting the efficient delivery of NHS care.

- Limited funded places available – filling fast
- Flexible learning – no cohorts, start anytime
- Complete in as little as 3 months
- Training trusted across the NHS

Don't miss your chance to get your fully funded place before NHS England funding runs out. Once these funded places are gone, standard fees will apply. Apply today and take the next step in your professional journey.

[Find out more and apply now](#)



Sleep Education Event- When Sleep Goes Wrong

The Queen Victoria Hospital (QVH) Sleep Disorder Centre are excited to be collaborating with Kent & Medway Medical School to be delivering a one day in-person educational event on Sleep Medicine.

The aim of the Symposium entitled 'When Sleep Goes Wrong' is to deliver education to primary and community healthcare teams on sleep and health, insomnia and its management and a session entitled 'when sleep gets weird' which covers unusual but fascinating disorders in sleep. There will be research posters presented as well as a session on digital sleep trackers and monitors. We will also be including real-world case studies to go through with the audience on common complaints they will see in their day-to-day practice.

There will be lunch provided, free and ample parking and a range of sleep experts to deliver the sessions.

The link to the event is <https://store.kent.ac.uk/short-courses/kent-medway-medical-school/short-courses/kmms-to-host-training-event-when-sleep-goes-wrong>, scheduled as an in-person event at Canterbury campus **8th November**.



Don't Miss Out –Two face to face CPPE Workshops for Pharmacy Professionals in Kent this November

Calling all pharmacy professionals in Kent! This November, CPPE is offering two engaging face-to-face workshops designed to enhance your clinical confidence and connect you with colleagues across the region.

Workshop 1: Weight Management – A Person-Centred Approach

Discover our brand-new CPPE programme, centred around a real-life patient story that highlights the lived experience of obesity. Strengthen your

consultation skills, improve documentation, and enhance the quality of your service.

Whether you're supporting weight management services or considering independent prescribing, this session will help you navigate complex scenarios with confidence.

Location: Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, CT1 2EH

Date & Time: Monday 18 November | 7:00–9:00pm

Places are limited – early booking is recommended book [HERE](#) now to avoid disappointment

Workshop 2: [Hypertension Case-Finding Service – Practical Skills for Person-Centred Care](#)

This interactive workshop is designed to equip you with the practical skills and clinical confidence needed to deliver the NHS Hypertension Case-Finding Service effectively. Through hands-on training with a clinical demonstrator, you'll gain experience in conducting person-centred consultations and assessments.

You will learn how to:

- Identify and engage eligible patients
- Accurately use and interpret blood pressure and ABPM devices
- Apply shared decision-making techniques and offer lifestyle advice
- Support and train your wider pharmacy team to deliver the service confidently

Location: Great Danes Hotel, ME17 1RE (near Maidstone)

Date & Time: Saturday 30 November | 10:00am–12:30pm

Places are limited – early booking is recommended book [HERE](#) now to avoid disappointment

Secure your place today via the [CPPE website](#) and take the next step in your professional development.

We look forward to welcoming you in person!

CPPE workshops for October to December 2025 can be found [here](#).



Reminder: Varenicline PGD – Pharmacists (Deadline)

Varenicline PGD will be launched across Kent only pharmacies on Monday 10th November. You would have received an email with the PGD checklist.

To activate the PGD at your site you will need to

- **Review all attached documents**, especially the PGD checklist on **page 18**
- **Please complete the varenicline PGD assurance checklist (page 18) and sign Appendix A (page 19)** and aim to return both by **6th November** to confirm participation.
- Once received, a setup fee will be arranged. This setup fee is for a limited time only.
- We aim for as many pharmacies as possible to offer the PGD from 10th November to ensure client access. Pharmacies can still sign up after this date, but the setup fee is only available until **Friday 19th December**. PGDs returned after this date will not qualify for the fee.

Email the admin@kentlpc.org.uk if you need any support.



CPE Services Team has launched a series of articles tackling misconceptions about the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Service. The latest article explores common misunderstandings around updating NHS Profile Manager and checking patient eligibility.

[Read the latest myth busting article](#)

[Learn more on our LFD Service page](#)



Community Pharmacy National health campaign

As part of the [Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework \(CPCF\) 2025/26](#) pharmacy contractors are required to take part in two national health campaigns and two local health campaigns (the latter agreed by ICBs and LPCs at a local level).

Both national campaigns will focus on, and promote, the Pharmacy First service to the public.

The first national campaign will run from: **Monday 20th October 2025 to**

Sunday 9th November 2025.

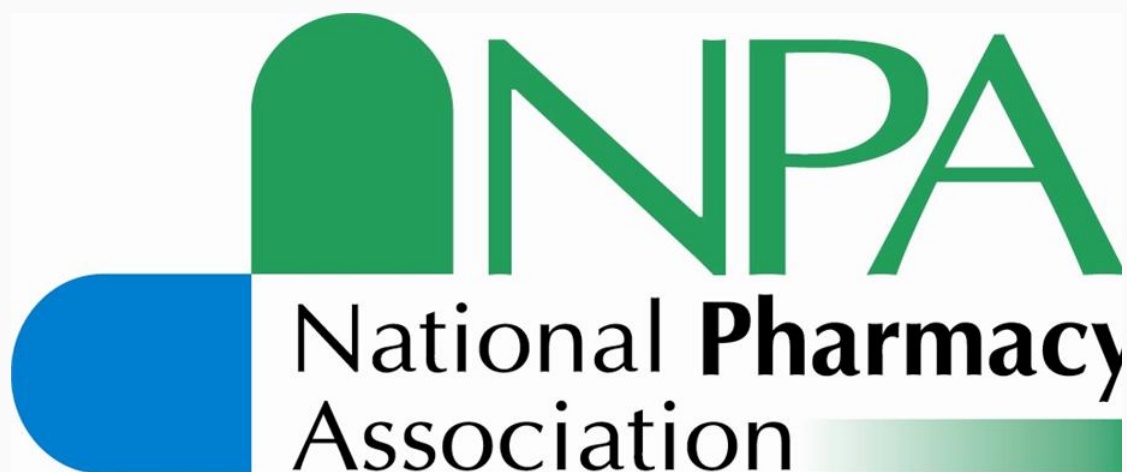
Pharmacy owners can meet the requirements of the campaigns in several ways, by promoting the Pharmacy First service to the public during the campaign period, including any of the following:

- Displaying posters, leaflets or other promotional materials relating to the Pharmacy First service at the pharmacy
- Information on your pharmacy's website
- Information posted via your pharmacy's social media channels
- Including information on the service in emails or SMS you send to patients.

**Community Pharmacy workforce survey 2025: survey now live**

The Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey (CPWS) 2025 launched on 22 September 2025 and will close at 11:59pm on 21 November 2025.

The NHSBSA contacted community pharmacy contractors in England from pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk. Each contractor has been given a unique survey link. Pharmacy contractors can also access the CPWS through their [Manage Your Service \(MYS\)](#) portal.



Ask Your Pharmacist Week – 3-10 November

This year's Ask Your Pharmacist Week runs 3–10 November and is organised by the National Pharmacy Association (NPA), supported by NHS England.

This year's theme is Ask Your Pharmacist: NHS Services Close to Home – raising awareness of the NHS Blood Pressure Check, Pharmacy First, flu vaccinations and oral contraception, among other services.

Please get involved and follow the week's activities using #AskYourPharmacist and share with your networks.

Coming soon: The NPA is creating free-of-charge campaign materials, for you to use or adapt as you see fit for local use, [available on their website](#). For more information about how you can take part, contact NPA Head of Communications on s.fishwick@npa.co.uk



Pharmacy Contraception and Oral Emergency Contraception

Now Live and FREE* to access for Kent and Medway pharmacies at <https://www.virtualoutcomes.co.uk/pharmacy-training/>



- [Primary Care Bulletin](#)
- [Medicines Optimisation Newsletter](#)

Community Pharmacy Kent

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

Tel: 01634 649101 | Email: Admin@kentlpc.org.uk

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