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Newsletter

28th October 2025

Week 40

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



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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 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.



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.
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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.



Business Services Authority

Pharmacy Quality Scheme - Clinical Audit 2025-26

This is a reminder about the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) clinical audit for 2025/26. The audit focuses on the clinical advice and consultations provided to patients scoring FeverPAIN 0–3 on the Pharmacy First Sore Throat clinical pathway.

Audit window:

- The audit period opens on 1st September 2025
- The audit must be completed no later than 31st March 2026

Key points to note:

- The audit specifically covers patients who score Fever PAIN 0–3, where the appropriate action is the provision of clinical advice and self-care guidance rather than antibiotics.
- Participating pharmacies are required to complete and retain records of the audit in line with PQS guidance.

- 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](#)
- Completion of this audit is a mandatory element of PQS and supports the national antimicrobial stewardship agenda.
- Guidance and resources are available via the NHS England and NHSBSA websites by clicking [here](#).

We strongly encourage you to begin the audit early to ensure timely completion and avoid any last-minute challenges.

[Attached](#) is also a copy of the training required for the completion of the 2025-26 PQS scheme.

If you require any support or further clarification, please contact me at adeyinka.jolaoso@kentlpc.org.uk

Click [here](#) for the fever pain score website



Increase to the level of funding for PTPTs as part of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme in England

NHS England provides funding to community pharmacy sites in England that have a pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician (PTPT) as part of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme. The funding covers a 24-month training period for each trainee.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the level of funding to each training site with CPTAP trainees has been increased from £15,053 to £15,505 per annum, therefore the new monthly payments will increase to £1,292.09 per month. This will be applied to all trainees from 01 April 2025.

Information on the increased payment is also being updated in the [NHS England Education Funding Guide](#) for 2025/26.

The increased payments will be made automatically by NHSBSA to all eligible training sites, including back-dated pay to the 01 April 2025. There is nothing additional that training sites need to do to receive the uplifted payment.

Please note this is only for pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians that have been recruited as part of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme. It applies to new and existing trainees.

If you have any other questions, please contact your regional NHS England Workforce Training and Education pharmacy team at england.wtepharmacy.se@nhs.net



REMINDER: Register now for the Newly Qualified Pharmacists Programme Cohort 9 delivered by CPPE – apply by 31st October 2025

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) and NHS England (NHSE) [Newly Qualified Pharmacist Programme](#) (NQPP) is open for registration.

About the training pathway

This twelve-month programme is fully funded by NHS England WT&E to support newly qualified pharmacists to develop confidence and competence in the core areas of pharmacy practice. Educational supervision support is provided by CPPE as part of this training programme offer.

Key dates – Two Cohorts for 2025-26:

- Cohort 9
- Applications opened 1st September 2025

- Applications close 31st October 2025
- Programme start date: 3rd November 2025

Eligibility:

The CPPE Newly qualified pharmacist programme is for pharmacists (including locums) who registered with the GPhC from 2023 onwards who are working in any of the following settings as their main role:

- Community pharmacy
- Integrated care boards
- Community health services
- Health and justice
- General practice (Not for learners employed via ARRS)
- Care homes (Not for learners employed via ARRS)
- Pharmacists who registered before 2023 who are returning from a career break are also eligible to apply.
- Other roles may also be eligible – contact CPPE to discuss how they can support.

How can I apply?

- Visit the CPPE website www.cppe.ac.uk/career/nqpp/ for further information about the training offer provided including eligibility.
- A video overview of the programme is available here <https://vimeo.com/997723347/d44abee944?share=copy>

If you have any questions regarding this offer, please contact the CPPE NQPP team newlyqualified@cppe.ac.uk.



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



CPPE Workshops October 2025 to December 2025

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

NHS New Medicine Service and NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: updated documents published

The [NHS New Medicine Service](#) will be expanded to include depression as an eligible condition from Wednesday 29 October 2025. The updated service specification has been [published on NHS England's website](#), allowing community pharmacy teams to prepare for the service changes.

The current service specification is [available on the NHSBSA website](#) and will remain in place until the service commencement date.

Contractors who opt to use an IT system to maintain appropriate clinical records for the service should look out for communications from their IT supplier or discuss and confirm these updates will be made by them.

In addition, updated service specification and patient group directions (PGDs) for the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service [have been published on NHS England's website](#) to support teams as they prepare for the service to expand to include oral emergency contraception.



Pharmacy technicians development programme

Pharmacy technicians play an increasingly vital role in delivering safe, effective and person-centred care. To support them, CPPE has launched a new programme: [*Pharmacy technician development programme: preparing for the future.*](#)

Open for bookings from October 2025, this blended learning programme combines flexible online learning, interactive online and face-to-face workshops, and guidance from a dedicated education supervisor. From the outset, participants complete a learning needs review to tailor their personal development plan and prioritise learning most relevant to their practice.





- [Primary Care Bulletin](#)

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