Newsletter

9th January 2026

Week 2

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

- January Deadline Tracker
- Weight management programme
- Media training offer
- 2026/27 seasonal vaccination

- [Legislation Change](#)

- [Patient abuse poll](#)

- [GP webinar](#)

Other newsletters:

- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)

To download January 2026 Deadline Tracker click [here.](#)

Only a few spaces are still available for this FREE to attend event! Don't miss out!!

[Weight management - prescribing perspectives : CPPE](#)

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.

Open to pharmacy technicians, trainee pharmacists and pharmacists / IP's
Location: The Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone, ME17 1RE, *Tuesday 13th January 7pm – 9pm* with food and refreshments from 6:30pm
BOOK NOW for your last chance to attend this workshop in Kent!

Media training offer: Become an ambassador for community pharmacy
Training on giving media interviews and handling the press is being offered to pharmacy owners, team members and LPCs.
Raising awareness of the work community pharmacies do and the challenges they face is an essential part of Community Pharmacy England's work and something that the whole sector can get behind and support.

If you're interested in becoming an ambassador for community pharmacy and giving effective interviews to the press, save your space on one of the following sessions:
Monday 26th January 2026, 7.30pm-9pm – online
Tuesday 10th February 2026, 7.30pm-9pm – online

2026/27 seasonal vaccination service specification for community pharmacy contractors

The 2026/27 COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccination advanced service specification has now been published.

For the first time the COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccination service specifications have been combined into one document, although contractors can still sign up to deliver adult influenza vaccinations only.

A letter has been cascaded and published setting out the key changes, funding, sign up process and deadlines. This letter also details government's acceptance of the recommended spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination cohorts and timing. Communications about the two-three-year-old flu vaccination service will be separate, pending the outcomes of the evaluation of this year's pilot.

<u>Legislation Change</u>

New legislation has come into force on the 7th January, allowing pharmacy teams to hand out checked and bagged prescriptions to patients or their representative in the absence of a pharmacist. This allows the collection of prescriptions when the pharmacist is temporarily absent, e.g. they are delivering services in the consultation room or taking a break.

This allowance is optional and is at the discretion of the pharmacist, including deciding on which items still need to be handed out under their supervision e.g. cold items, CDs, high risk medicines etc.

The pharmacist can give verbal or written approval for each team member who they authorise, and they can add or remove approval as and when they see fit. There is no specific training required for someone to be authorised; however, the pharmacist should use professional judgement as to whether the team member has the appropriate skills and knowledge to hand out prescriptions - keeping patient safety at mind at all times.

PLEASE NOTE – these changes do not replace or override Responsible Pharmacist rules, which remain unchange

Patient abuse poll

Community pharmacy owners are being asked to share their experiences of patient abuse towards them and their teams, and other challenges, as the Community Pharmacy England Committee prepares for its first meeting of 2026.

Pharmacy owners and their teams continue to work hard to support local communities despite mounting pressures, and this is made even more difficult when they face abuse and aggression from frustrated members of the public. More than half of pharmacy staff reported that abuse from patients is a serious concern in the **2025 Pharmacy Pressures Survey** – and with further reports now received from LPCs, we want to get an accurate updated picture. To read more please click here

To help inform the Committee's discussions, we are keen to quantify further the extent to which pharmacy teams encounter abuse from patients and the public. The survey also asks about VAT repayments and includes the regular financial pressures tracker.

Please input into the Committee's discussions via this short poll:

February 2026 Committee Opinion Poll (for independent and non-CCA multiples only)

View a copy of the poll questions

The survey will close at **11.59pm on Thursday, 22nd January** to allow time for the Committee to review responses before its meeting.

GP webinar to be held on 15 January

The first GP webinar of 2026 will be held on 15 January, 5pm-6pm.

The webinar will be a chance to hear about the peer ambassadors programme and the NHS Management and Leadership Framework as well as updates on Pharmacy First and minor illness referrals and vaccinations and immunisations. There will also be a section on the independent ADHD taskforce – key findings for General Practice. To sign up for the webinar, please click here.

Useful information to support you in your practice.

- Primary Care Buletin

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