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Newsletter

10th April 2026

Week 15

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



- [Deadline Tracker](#)
- [Lunchtime webinar](#)
- [Independent Prescribing courses-NHS England](#)

- [Covid-19 Updates](#)
- [GP to Pharmacy Digital Referrals](#)
- [Kent LPC Vaccination Training](#)
- [Covid-19 Lateral Flow Distribution](#)
- [Covid-19 Spring Programme](#)
- [NHS Prescription Charge](#)

Other newsletters:

- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)



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



Smoking Cessation and NHS Health Check contract webinars

Thank you to all our contractors who were able to attend the lunchtime webinar held on 8th April 2026.

For those who were unable to join, you can access the recording of the session [here](#);

The Kent Business Portal sign-up guide is also available [here](#)

We hope you find these resources helpful. If you have any questions or require further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Independent Prescribing courses 2026-27 – NHS England funded training

Pharmacists from all sectors, including community pharmacy and locums, are invited to take advantage of this opportunity.

Courses are available up to March 2027, with several universities offering multiple dates for cohort intakes. Start dates will depend on the university provider.

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); Pharmacists employed in General Practice (who are not eligible for, or enrolled on, the CPPE Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway) and those who are working to provide primary care services (e.g. working in primary care) who are not employed in ARRS roles); and Health and Justice pharmacists
2. Pharmacists enrolled on CPPE's Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway (PCPEP) and who meet the PCPEP criteria to enrol on an independent prescribing course
3. Pharmacists working in an NHS Hospital Trust or Mental Health Trust (NHS managed sector); pharmacists working in an integrated care board (ICB), previously CCG pharmacists.

Eligible pharmacists may apply only to those universities as listed on the [NHS England website](#). 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.

Universities are listed on the [NHS England website](#) by sector. Please note: the available universities differ depending on the sector you work in.

Course length and the number of face-to-face days required vary between universities. Please check the individual university webpages for further information on course format.

Funding

Independent Prescribing training is available to pharmacists who meet the eligibility criteria. Tuition fees are fully funded by NHS England. Pharmacists that are successful in applying to one of the approved universities will be

allocated a fully funded place directly by the university. They do not need to apply to NHS England for funding separately.

For any further enquiries, please contact england.pharmacyteam@nhs.net
In addition to the offer mentioned above, [University of Brighton](#) and [University of Winchester](#) are also providing IP funded course provision. For further details and information on how to apply, please visit their respective webpages.



COVID – 19 VACCINATION UPDATES

Pharmacy owners are kindly reminded to ensure that their appointment availability is up to date on the National Booking System, which has been open to the public since 7th April 2026. Patients are now able to book vaccination appointments via the system, with clinics commencing from Monday 13th April 2026.



Face to face VACCINATION TRAINING – KENT LPC

Community Pharmacy Kent (Kent LPC), in collaboration with ECG, has

organised a comprehensive vaccination training for Community Pharmacy Contractors.

The training is scheduled for Sunday, 5th July 2026, and will take place at Mercure Maidstone. This training session is open to both individuals new to vaccinations and those needing a refresher course.

What is Required from You:

- **Venue Cost:** Paid by the LPC.
- **Trainer Cost:** £30
- **Session Choice:** Attend either a morning or afternoon training session.
- **Spaces Available:** 40 (20 per session).

Training Details:

- **Date:** 05.07.2026
- **Venue:** Mercure Maidstone Hollingbourne, Maidstone ME17 1RE
- **Morning Session:** 9.00am till 12.30pm.
- **Afternoon Session:** 1.00pm till 4.30pm

To register your interest, please click on [this link](#)



COVID-19 LATERAL FLOW DISTRIBUTION

The Lateral flow device tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments (LFD service) will continue to be commissioned as an Advanced service through 2026/27.

NHS England has agreed the fee for provision of the service will increase to £4.19 + VAT from 1st April 2026, following a request from Community Pharmacy

England for an increase in the fee to reflect inflationary pressures.
Click [here](#) to read more.



COVID-19 Spring Programme Vaccine Group Direction Published.

NHS England has authorised and published a vaccine group direction (VGD) for use in the Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

VGDs are a new legal route which can be used to authorise the administration of vaccines. They operate similarly to a PGD, with pharmacists and pharmacy technicians operating as the clinician, but with the opportunity for some tasks within the process (preparation, administration and record-keeping) to be delegated to other suitably trained staff.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the VGD for the spring 2026 vaccination programme.



Useful information to support you in your practice.

- [Primary Care Buletin](#)
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