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Newsletter

5th June 2026

Week 23

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



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



Webinar recording: 2026/27 CPCF settlement

The webinar covering the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) Settlement for 2026/27, held last week, is now available on demand. To access the recording, please click [here](#).



Update from Kent County Council

Thank you to all pharmacies that have signed up to deliver Stop Smoking Support on behalf of KCC.

We are continuing to work closely with our partners to finalise the Patient Group Direction (PGD) for varenicline; however, at present we are unable to confirm when this will be in place.

With this in mind, we are keen to commence the service from early June. Initially, signed-up providers will support clients using Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), with varenicline to be incorporated into the service offering once the PGD has been finalised.

We apologise for the delay in introducing varenicline, but we believe it is important to begin delivering the stop smoking service through pharmacies at this stage.

We will continue to keep you updated on progress with the varenicline PGD. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact our dedicated Primary Care Team at primarycareprogrammesteam@kent.gov.uk



Regional Workshop, South East (Thursday 9th July)

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a workshop in South East. This face-to-face event will enable pharmacy owners and their representatives to discuss the next steps for community pharmacy with us, hearing more about the outcome of the CPCF negotiations for 2026/27 and feed directly into our priorities for the 2027/28 CPCF negotiations and beyond.

Gary Warner, the representative of independent pharmacy owners region and other members of the Community Pharmacy England Committee, some of the Executive Team will also be in attendance, as well as representatives from your LPC. An agenda and topics for discussion will be published nearer the time, we will seek your views before the event, to reflect the issues, challenges and opportunities most relevant to our community.

This event is part of a series of regional workshops taking place across the country.

Details:

Location: Holiday Inn Farnborough, Lynchford Rd, Farnborough GU14 6AZ

Timings: 7:30pm – 9.30pm, with doors open from 6:45pm when a hot buffet will be available, with informal networking and Q&A with the Community Pharmacy England team)

This event is free to attend, but you are asked to register in advance. Please note that attendance is for pharmacy owners and their representatives.

To reserve a spot, click on [this link](#)



Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2026

With the deadline now imminent, Community Pharmacy England is urging pharmacy owners to take action to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPTK) for 2026 now and reminding them to make use of our resources to work through the process as efficiently as possible.

The DSPTK submission is due by 30th June 2026 as part of a pharmacy's annual information governance (IG) declaration, and many pharmacy owners are busy working towards completing this. It is a mandatory requirement under the NHS Terms of Service that demonstrates core information governance standards and maintains patient trust. Please click [here](#) to read more.



Change to monthly cap from June 2026

Following the [announcement of the 2026/27 negotiations](#), a [Drug Tariff update](#) has been published to base the New Medicine Service (NMS) monthly consultation cap on 0.9% rather than 1.0% of monthly prescriptions. Please click [here](#) to read more.



CENTRE FOR PHARMACY POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

Limited Spaces: Menopause Prescribing Workshop - Strengthen your approach to Menopause consultations!

Working in pharmacy can be tough. Menopause consultations, in particular, can feel complex and emotionally demanding. Symptoms are rarely straightforward, decisions often sit in grey areas and it's easy to feel isolated – stretched for time, competing responsibilities, unsure whether your approach is as strong as it could be.

A face-to-face [Menopause prescribing perspectives workshop](#) can break that pattern!

It gives you protected time away from the day-to-day to focus on how you manage menopause consultations, not just the clinical information. You'll meet pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and trainees from your local area who are navigating the same challenges – people who understand the realities of practice and the uncertainty that can come with menopause care.

During the workshop, you'll work through a real-world menopause consultation and:

- develop a clearer, structured approach to menopause assessments
- strengthen your confidence in clinical judgement and shared decision making
- improve how you document consultations and justify decisions
- explore the grey areas of menopause care with peers, rather than handling them alone
- build a supportive local network you can continue to draw on after the session

This workshop is about confidence, clarity and connection – returning to practice better equipped to deliver safe, person-centred menopause care, and reassured that you're not on your own.

So, if you can, pause the everyday rush and reconnect with your practice at a [Menopause prescribing perspectives workshop!](#)

We will be running the workshop on the following dates in the South East with your friendly local tutors!

- **9th June Crawley College, Crawley, West Sussex with Tanya Gray**
- **1st September, Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone, Kent with Tracy Hedley**
- **16th September West Hove Golf Club, Hove, East Sussex, with Ashleigh Bradley**
- **24th September, Faraday House, Eastbourne, East Sussex with Rachel King.**

So don't miss out and [book your place today!](#)



Teach and treat programme (Update)

Delighted to see the level of support across community pharmacies, GP practices, and acute trusts in supporting the training and development of Independent Prescribers within community pharmacy by acting as Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs).

Next steps:

- All successful candidates will receive an email this week confirming their allocated DPP

- Please start your application immediately, as the submission deadline for the September 2026 cohort is 12th June 2026
- If you have any questions, please contact Priya at priya.mattu@kentlpc.org.uk

If you are interested in becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP), please click the link and complete the survey to express your interest <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBJYMJL>

We have also provided a link to a pre-recorded webinar, which explains the DPP role in more detail and outlines what is involved in supporting an Independent Prescribing candidate. <https://youtu.be/ePC6Uz4Mpvo>



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.



Useful information to support you in your practice.

- [Primary Care Buletin](#)

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