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Newsletter

26th June 2026

Week 26

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



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### **Pharmacies to provide new MenB vac service**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England have announced a new community pharmacy vaccination service to provide a one-off Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service.

The new Advanced service is targeted to protect young people heading to universities or residential further education ahead of the start of term in autumn 2026. Click [here](#) to read more. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England have published [a letter](#) providing further information on the MenB time-limited vaccination offer. Click here to read more.

The service specification for the Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service has now been published by NHS England. This follows [the initial announcement of the service](#) made by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 12th June.

Pharmacy owners who decide to provide the service must first complete an [electronic registration declaration](#).

The deadline for registration is **11.59pm on 20th July 2026**.

However, pharmacy owners must register for the service **by 6th July 2026** if they would like to start offering appointments on National Booking Service (NBS) from the service commencement date (20th July). In that case, as long as they have a minimum of one booking made via NBS from 20th July, the pharmacy will receive stock on time to administer it to the patient.

Registrations submitted after 20th July 2026 will not be accepted, and the pharmacy will not be able to provide the service. To read more please click [here](#)

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#### **Data Security Toolkit completion underway – Act Now**

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.

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### **Flu and Childhood flu vac: PGD and VGD published**

NHS England has authorised and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published the Patient Group Direction (PGD) and Vaccine Group Direction (VGD) for use in the autumn/winter 2026/27 NHS Flu vaccination campaign.

VGDs are a new legal route which can be used to authorise administration of vaccines. In summary, they operate in a similar way 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.

The NHS Flu vaccination PGD can be found [here](#)

The NHS Flu vaccination VGD can be found [here](#)

### **Service Registration Reminder**

Pharmacy owners who wish to provide either flu and COVID-19 vaccinations or only adult flu vaccinations as part of the autumn/winter 2026/27 campaign, but who have not yet registered to provide these services, can still do so by using the NHS Business Service Authority's [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) to register to provide the service.

The interim deadline for registration is **11.59pm on 31st July 2026** to receive supplies of COVID-19 vaccines ahead of the anticipated autumn 2026 service commencement date.

If registering after 31st July 2026, the pharmacy is not guaranteed to receive COVID-19 vaccine in time for the COVID-19 vaccination commencement date.

The final deadline to register to provide flu and COVID-19 vaccinations or only adult flu vaccinations in 2026/27 is **11.59pm on 30th November 2026**.



**Expanded Children’s Flu Vac Advanced service to be launched in October**

Following discussions with NHS England, Community Pharmacy England has agreed to an extension of the pilot flu vaccination service for children aged 2-3 years, with an increase in the fee. In addition, after successful lobbying, the service is being expanded to include opportunistic vaccination of two additional groups:

- Clinically at-risk children aged 2 years to less than 18 years; and
- Catch-up vaccinations of school-aged children (Reception to Year 11).

The service, which has been announced via an [amendment to the national flu letter](#) by the Department of Health and Social Care, the UK Health Security Agency and NHS England, will continue to be commissioned as an Advanced service. To read more, please click on [this link](#).

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### **Discontinuation of Levemir**

We would like to inform you that Levemir® (insulin detemir) will be discontinued. As part of preparations for this change, it is important that all patients currently prescribed Levemir are made aware and supported to transition safely to an appropriate alternative therapy **before** the discontinuation date.

#### **Action required from community pharmacies:**

- When dispensing prescriptions for Levemir, please inform patients that this medication is due to be discontinued.
- Where possible, advise patients to contact their GP practice, diabetes specialist team, or other appropriate healthcare professional to review their treatment. Where possible, encourage patients to arrange this review by the end of September 2026 to ensure timely switching and avoid any interruption to insulin therapy.

### **Expression of Interest**

We are pleased to share that Community Pharmacy Kent has successfully secured funding through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to support this work. The aim of the project is to embed research within community pharmacy practice across Kent by April 2027 through study set-up, the development of research champions, and the creation of a stronger research culture within the sector.

Research is already well established in parts of primary care, including general practice, and there is now an opportunity to further develop this within community pharmacy. NIHR is seeking to expand research into this sector, recognising that pharmacies are highly accessible, embedded in local communities, and often support patients in areas of higher deprivation. This project will help build research capability in Kent pharmacies and support more inclusive, representative research in real-world community settings.

As part of this project, one community pharmacy site in Kent will be selected to participate. The selected pharmacy will nominate one pharmacist and one pharmacy technician to complete accredited Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training.

The full brief of the research is available [here](#).

To express an interest, please click [here](#)



### **Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Prescription charges – what does the patient pay?**

As part of [Community Pharmacy England \(CPE\) Funding & Reimbursement Shorts series](#), the Drug Tariff experts have created a new video discussing prescription charges. In this video, they provide guidance on how pharmacy teams can determine the number of charges that apply to items dispensed against NHS prescriptions. Click on [this link](#) to read more.

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# Business Services Authority

## **New Pharmacy Quality Scheme for 2026/27 announced**

Full details of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27 are now available [here](#). Pharmacy owners will be able to claim an Aspiration payment if they wish to between 9am on 13th July 2026 and 11.59pm on 28th July 2026.

The declaration period for the 2026/27 PQS will be between 9am on 1st February 2027 and 11.59pm on 26th February 2027, with pharmacy owners needing to have evidence to demonstrate meeting the domains that they have claimed for by the end of 31st March 2027.



Useful information to support you in your practice.

- [Primary Care Bulletin](#)

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