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Newsletter

17th July 2026

Week 29

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



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- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)
- [Medicines Optimisation Newsletter](#)



Lunchtime Webinar Recording

Many thanks to all contractors who attended the lunchtime webinar, which was held on Thursday 16th July 2026, To access the record of the webinar, please click [here](#).

The slide deck, including the eligibility criteria algorithm, can be found [here](#).



MenB vac update: vaccine allocation and ordering

Community Pharmacy England has been working urgently with NHS England to improve Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine allocation and ordering ahead of the service launch next week.

Please click [here](#) to read more



Reminder: Knowing your NHS POC code

Every community pharmacy owner has an NHS Parent Organisation Code (POC).

This is the unique code that identifies your parent organisation within the NHS.

- If you own a single pharmacy, you still have a POC.
- If you own multiple pharmacies, each pharmacy site should be correctly linked to the same POC.
- POCs are usually four or five characters long and often begin with the letter “P”.

Getting this right is important. It helps ensure NHS records about your organisation are accurate and consistent.

To read more about NHS POC code, click [here](#)



MenB vac: On-demand webinar

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) held a webinar in collaboration with NHS England about the new Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service on Tuesday 7th July.

The webinar was recorded and is now available to watch on demand.

[View the webinar](#)



PQS: The Aspiration payment window is now open

Pharmacy owners are now able to make a claim for an Aspiration payment for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27 on the NHS Business Services Authority's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal.

The Aspiration payment is optional; if pharmacy owners do not want to claim it, it will not impact on the pharmacy owner's ability to claim a PQS payment during the declaration period. There is also no requirement to have claimed for a previous PQS to claim an Aspiration payment for PQS 2026/27.

If pharmacy owners wish to claim for an Aspiration payment, they should [review the requirements of the PQS 2026/27](#), decide which domains they intend to meet when they make their PQS declaration (between 9am on 1st February and 11.59pm on 26th February 2027) and declare this on the [MYS portal](#).

Pharmacy owners, who wish to claim an Aspiration payment, must do so between 9am on 13th July 2026 and 11.59pm on 28th July 2026.

Pharmacy owners will be paid their Aspiration payment on 1st September 2026.2



2026/27 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire

Pharmacy owners should have received confirmation from NHSBSA that the 2026/27 CPAF screening questionnaire will be available for completion from 1st July 2026 until 31st July 2026. As a result of NHS regulations introduced at the end of 2020, completion of CPAF is a requirement of the Terms of Service. Therefore, pharmacy owners must complete the screening

questionnaire and, if required, the full CPAF questionnaire. Please click [here](#) to read more.



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**.



Kent and Medway

MESSAGE FROM THE ICB

Oral Contraception (OC) Supply Durations Under the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service

Community pharmacies delivering the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service are reminded of the recommended quantities and durations of oral contraception that can be supplied to patients under the service. Ensuring appropriate quantities are issued supports continuation of contraception, reduces gaps in treatment, and aligns with national guidance aimed at improving access and reducing unintended pregnancies.

Initiation Supplies

For patients starting oral contraception under the service:

A supply of **up to 3 months** of oral contraception may be provided at initiation.

This applies to both:

- Combined oral contraception (COC)
- Progestogen-only pills (POP)

Providing an adequate initial supply allows the patient sufficient time to establish treatment before review.

Repeat Supplies

For ongoing continuation supplies:

Ongoing supplies of an oral contraception should be for a minimum of 6 month's supply, unless there are clinical reasons not to. Such reasons should be documented clearly in the clinical record. Durations will be monitored to check compliance with the specification.

Pharmacies may provide **up to 12 months** of oral contraception where clinically appropriate as evidence shows this improves continuation and reduces unnecessary barriers to access.

The quantity supplied should be based on:

- Clinical judgement
- Patient preference
- Stock availability
- Any safeguarding or adherence considerations

Key Considerations for Pharmacy teams

Before issuing contraception, pharmacy teams should ensure:

- The patient remains medically eligible using current clinical guidance
- Blood pressure and BMI requirements have been met where applicable
- Any red flag symptoms or changes in medical history are assessed
- Appropriate counselling is provided regarding:
 - Missed pills
 - Side effects
 - STI protection
 - When to seek medical advice

Pharmacy teams should also ensure all consultations and supplies are appropriately recorded in line with local and NHS service requirements.

Pharmacy teams are required to discuss Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) options with patients during their consultation.

Please check expiration dates of oral contraception when supplying longer durations.

For full service specifications and clinical guidance, teams should refer to the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service documentation and associated PGDs which can be found [here](#).



Useful information to support you in your practice.

- [Primary Care Bulletin](#)
- [Medicines Optimisation Newsletter](#)

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