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Newsletter

4th September 2026

Week 37

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



- [Deadline Tracker](#)
- [Palliative and end of Life Care Criterion](#)
- [Pharmacy Quality Scheme](#)
- [Childhood Flu Vaccination Service](#)

- [AUTUMN FLU AND COVID – 19 VACCINATION](#)
- [HCFS Update](#)
- [NHS flu vacs for pregnant women](#)
- [Category H Updated list](#)
- [NHS Smart Cards](#)
- [NHS POC code](#)
- [Flu and Childhood flu vac: PGD and VGD published](#)
- [Rybelsus® reimbursement prices](#)
- [Mandatory national health campaigns for 2026/27](#)
- [Locally Commissioned Service](#)

Other newsletters:

- [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)



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



Pharmacy Quality Scheme - Gateway criterion Palliative and end of Life Care Criterion

Pharmacy owners must complete the questionnaire to evaluate the value of the Palliative and End of Life Care criterion. The questionnaire will be accessible from the [NHSBSA website](#) from August 2026 and must be submitted by the end of 31st December 2026 to meet the gateway criterion.

Pharmacy owners who complete their questionnaire submission will receive a confirmation email confirming their submission. This email must be provided if a pharmacy owner needs to demonstrate that they have successfully completed their questionnaire submission. Should a pharmacy owner not receive this questionnaire confirmation email within one hour of submitting it, then, after first checking their junk email folder, they should email the provider assurance team at pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk immediately to make them aware of the issue.

Pharmacy owners should note that they will not be able to claim payment for the quality criteria during the declaration period if the questionnaire has not been completed by 31st December 2026, as the gateway criterion will not have been met.



Pharmacy Quality Scheme - Clinical audit published

NHS England has published the clinical audit, developed with Community Pharmacy England, that must be undertaken by pharmacies wanting to complete Domain 2 (Professional practice) of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS).

The audit focuses on the quality of Pharmacy First clinical pathway consultations and record-keeping for those consultations.

An outcome of the audit is the development of an action plan for improving practice. In addition to a pharmacist completing the audit, pharmacy owners will be expected to ensure the pharmacist completes a peer discussion focused on reviewing the findings of the audit and the action plan, with a 'buddy' pharmacist.

Pharmacy owners must ensure the audit, action plan and peer discussion are completed no later than 31st March 2027. The guidance on the audit explains how to undertake the audit and peer discussion using the associated data collection and analysis form.

Some of the collated data must be submitted to NHS England through a data collection tool on the NHSBSA's MYS portal.

[Download the PQS 2026/27 clinical services audit – Pharmacy First clinical pathways consultations](#)



Reminder: less than a month to register for Childhood Flu Vac Service

Pharmacy owners must use the NHS Business Services Authority's Manage Your Service (MYS) portal to register to provide the 2026/27 Childhood Flu Vaccination.

Pharmacy owners who provided the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service in 2025/26 are required to re-register if they intend to provide the service in 2026/27.

To provide the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service from 1st October 2026, pharmacy owners must have registered via MYS to provide the service by 11.59pm on **31st August 2026** to receive supplies of childhood flu vaccines ahead of the service commencement date.

Pharmacy owners can register after 31st August 2026; however, it is not guaranteed they will receive childhood flu vaccine in time for the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service commencement date.

The final deadline to register to provide the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service in 2026/27 is **11.59pm on 30th November 2026**.



ARE YOU READY FOR THIS AUTUMN FLU AND COVID – 19 VACCINATION

Make sure you're ready to use Record a vaccination (RAVS) for flu and COVID-19 this autumn.

Check you can log in

Go to [NHS Record a vaccination](#) and log in.

If your account has been deactivated, ask a lead administrator to reactivate it.

You may notice an extra screen when you next log in, asking if you want to log in with Okta or another way. Most users should continue to log in with their Okta username and password. But some pharmacy users will also have the option of logging in with their pharmacy IT system.

Reactivating Users

Lead administrators can reactivate deactivated users by going to 'Manage users'.

Add vaccine batches

Remember that you need to add vaccine batches before you can start recording. An administrator or lead administrator can do this.

Check what's new in RAVS by clicking [here](#).



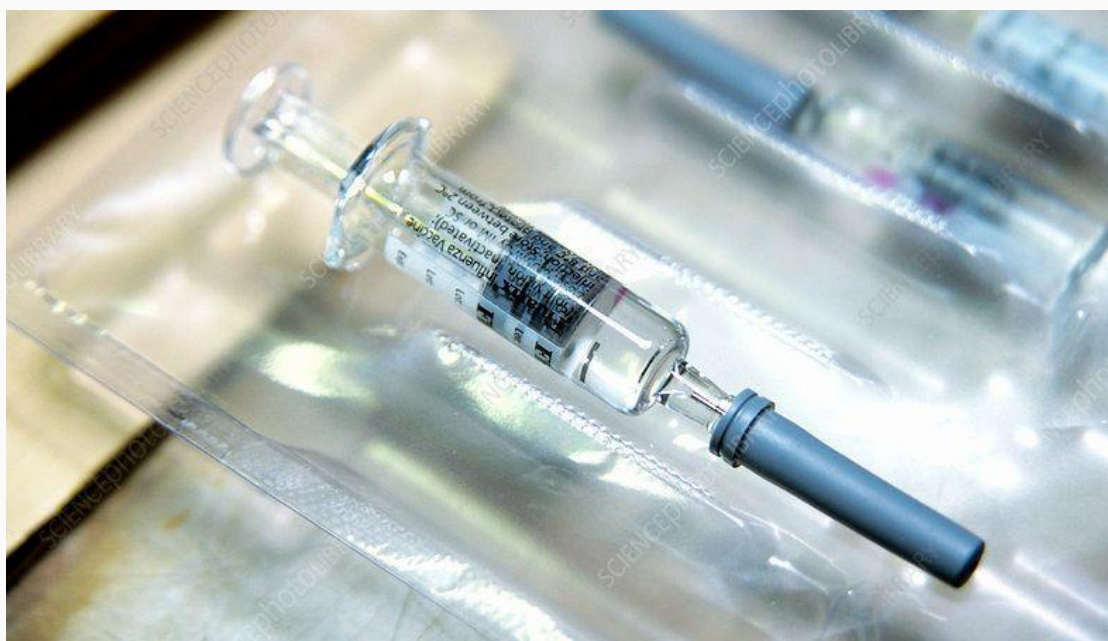
Updated HCFS spec published

NHS England published an updated version of the Hypertension Case-Finding Service (HCFS) specification.

To download the new specification, click [here](#)

The changes to the service, [come into effect](#) on Thursday 3rd September 2026, providing pharmacy owners with four weeks' notice.

To read more, click [here](#)



NHS flu vaccination for pregnant women commence

As of 1st September 2026, pregnant women can receive their NHS flu vaccinations from community pharmacies as the NHS flu programme commences ahead of winter.

Pregnant women can get their flu jab at any stage of pregnancy and NHS promotional activity will be encouraging eligible women to get protected.

Other eligible adult groups will be able to receive their flu vaccinations from 1st October 2026.

Childhood flu reminder

While general practice and the school vaccination service can offer children the flu vaccine from today, pharmacy owners are reminded that community pharmacies cannot commence provision of flu vaccinations to eligible children this month.

From 1st October 2026, pharmacies can administer flu vaccines to all children aged 2- and 3-years old **and** clinically at-risk children aged 4-17 years old.

From 1st December 2026, pharmacies can administer flu vaccinations to school aged children (Reception to Year 11).

More information on these services can be found on our service pages.

[Seasonal Vaccination Services – COVID-19 and Adult Flu](#)
[Childhood Flu Vaccination Service](#)



Advance notice of 8 products moving to Category H in September 2026

Following the introduction of Category H in March 2026, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced](#) that the following 8 products will move from Category C to Category H, effective from September 2026:

- Alfuzosin 10mg modified-release tablets
- Diclofenac 100mg suppositories
- Felodipine 10mg modified-release tablets
- Felodipine 2.5mg modified-release tablets
- Felodipine 5mg modified-release tablets

- Fluticasone furoate 27.5micrograms/dose nasal spray
- Nicotine 7mg/24hours transdermal patches
- Sodium fluoride 0.05% mouthwash sugar free

Click [here](#) to read more



New NHS tool helps pharmacy teams quickly find their smartcard support

NHS England has launched a new online tool to help pharmacy teams more quickly identify their local Registration Authority (RA) contact details for smartcard support.

This new NHS search tool helps you quickly find your local RA to resolve access issues faster.

What is the new tool?

The new “**Find your Registration Authority**” tool includes a simple search function.

You can search using your organisation’s name, address, postcode or ODS code to find your RA.

Try out the tool: [Find Your Registration Authority](#)



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](#)



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**.



Rybelsus® reimbursement prices redetermined for August 2026

Following discussions with NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Novo Nordisk Ltd has updated its UK list price of Rybelsus® (Semaglutide) tablets for all strengths (1.5mg, 4mg and 9mg) from £78.48 to £120 per pack, effective from 5th August 2026.

Under the current price change timetable, the new Rybelsus® list prices would apply to reimbursement for both branded and generically written prescriptions dispensed from September 2026. However, following representations made by Community Pharmacy England on behalf of community pharmacy owners, DHSC has agreed to redetermine the August 2026 reimbursement prices for Rybelsus® (Semaglutide) tablets to reflect the increased NHS list prices. This means that for any Rybelsus® prescriptions dispensed in August 2026 reimbursement will be based on the new list prices of £120 per pack (instead of published August Drug Tariff prices of £78.48). Please see the link to the announcement published on [NHSBSA's website](#).

This intervention by Community Pharmacy England has prevented community pharmacy owners from losing an estimated £2.6 million following the Rybelsus® list price increase.



Mandatory national health campaigns for 2026/27

As part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) 2026/27, pharmacy owners are required to take part in two national health campaigns and two local health campaigns (the latter agreed by ICBs and LPCs at a local level).

The first national campaign will focus on the expectation that pharmacy staff are treated with respect so they can undertake their professional practice safely, and in the best interest of both patients and the people working in our pharmacies.

The campaign intends to support the findings of [our recent poll that indicated levels of violence and abuse in community pharmacies are increasing](#).

The first campaign will run from: Monday 5th October 2026 to Sunday 25th October 2026

Pharmacy owners can use assets developed by [NHS England](#) or [Community Pharmacy England](#).

The second campaign will promote the Pharmacy First service to the public and will run from:

Monday 1st February 2027 to Sunday 21st February 2027.



LOCALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICE – SMOKING CESSATION UPDATES

If your pharmacy has completed and countersigned the contract between yourself and Kent County Council, there will be a need to identify a new adviser or advisers to undertake the [NCSCT e-learning](#).

This online training is a mandatory requirement for all new advisers. Advisers must complete the NCSCT Practitioner Training and then undertake the Practitioner Assessment, which assesses their core knowledge and key practice skills.

Once the assessment has been completed and passed, please send a copy of the adviser's pass certificate to Kent County Council for records.

Once the certificate(s) have been received and verified, the service will be activated for your pharmacy, including access to PharmOutcomes, which will be used to record the weekly interventions provided and any NRT supplied to patients.

Please ensure that all new advisers complete the required training and assessment before delivering the service.



Useful information to support you in your practice.

- [Primary Care Bulletin](#)

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