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Newsletter

21st August 2026

Week 35

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



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Summer Bank Holiday Pharmacies Opening Hours

Please find attached the Summer Bank Holiday [Posters](#) detailing which pharmacies will be open across Kent and Medway for your information.

A map of the pharmacies that will be open on the Bank Holidays has been created; anybody can access the map via the link below.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Aq-8P5O04XK_UHVG6_4uAOnFPA_LN7o&usp=sharing



Face to face VACCINATION TRAINING – KENT LPC

Following the success of our fully booked July session, I'm delighted to announce an additional face-to-face vaccination training session for registered pharmacy colleagues.

To continue supporting workforce development, we have now opened an **additional training date** to support newly qualified pharmacists, trainee pharmacists, and other registered pharmacy team members requiring vaccination training.

The new training date and details are below...

What is Required from You:

- **Session Choice:** Attend either a morning or afternoon training session.
- **Spaces Available:** 40 (20 per session).

Training Details:

- **Date:** 13.09.2026
- **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](#).



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**.



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](#)



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.



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**.



Useful information to support you in your practice.

- [Primary Care Bulletin](#)

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