



Newsletter

This newsletter is sent on Mondays and contains useful information for community pharmacies in Hertfordshire.

Reminders

- **IMPORTANT - DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE 2024 MANDATORY WORKFORCE SURVEY.** The annual workforce survey is a Terms of Service requirement for pharmacy owners. If you haven't completed the survey yet, please ensure it is submitted by the deadline: Wednesday, 11 December 2024. Full details are on the [CPE website](#) and you can access the 2024 Workforce Survey directly using [this link](#).



Local Updates

CPH Committee Meeting - 27 November 2024

The CPH Committee met on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, with several key stakeholders in attendance. We were joined by:

- Sarah Perman, Emily Clarke, and Michael Nadasdy from Hertfordshire Public Health
- Kate Latham from the LMC
- Anurita Rohilla and Mefino Ogedegbe from HWE ICB
- Anil Shah from CPE
- Tunde Sokoya from CPESx
- Viral Patel, a local contractor from Laxtons Pharmacy in Broxbourne, attending as an observer.

Discussions covered a range of strategic and operational updates relevant to pharmacy, public health, and primary care collaborations.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 22 January 2025. If you would like to attend as an observer please contact the [CPH office](#). CPH meeting dates and minutes are available on CPH [website](#).

Action Required: NHS England seek your views on central procurement of flu vaccinations

NHS England is seeking feedback on the proposed central procurement of adult flu vaccines, as outlined in the NHS Vaccination Strategy. If implemented, flu vaccines for community pharmacies and general practices would be centrally purchased by UKHSA and supplied free of charge.

Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire (CPH) and Community Pharmacy England (CPE) strongly encourage contractors to complete the [online survey](#) to ensure your views are considered.

When completing this survey it may be worth considering or being aware of the following:

- The central procurement of the vaccine is not just for community pharmacies but also for GPs and other providers of the vaccine.
- You do not need to respond to all questions in the questionnaire to be able to submit your feedback. For example, the section on pricing or financial information can be left blank if do not have the information at hand.
- When completing the survey it may be beneficial to think about how central procurement may affect supply and distribution, what affect it may have on margins and how it would work for private flu vaccinations.

Full details can be found on the [CPE website](#)

The survey closes on Tuesday 17 December 2024

Autumn Controlled Drugs Newsletter

[This newsletter](#) contains information to support safe use and handling of controlled drugs. This issue includes:

- Disposal of Buvidal injections
- Prescription security reminders
- Reminder - signing for post
- Reporting Controlled Drug (CD) Incidents and Concerns
- Pharmacist independent prescribers - Consultation notes
- Useful links

Switch notice - Omeprazole SF oral suspension to Lansoprazole orodispersible

Please be aware that the following switch has been agreed for implementation at Herts and West Essex (HWE) ICB Medicines Optimisation Delivery and Implementation group meeting:

- Omeprazole 20mg/5ml, 10mg/5ml, 1mg/ml SF oral suspension to Lansoprazole 15mg or 30mg orodispersible tablets

HWE ICB are giving you 28 days' notice to run down stocks. The notice period will end on **27 December 2024** when the message to GPs will go live on Scriptswitch.

Update to guidance on Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) regimens in Asthma

Please be aware that the local MART guidance has been updated to:

- reflect the formulary change to Bibecfo® as the preferred MART option when an MDI is considered appropriate and
- to include links to the new Asthma and Lung UK MART specific action plan.

All patients prescribed MART should have a MART specific action plan which includes details of how to manage an asthma attack using a MART device.

Please use [this link](#) to access the updated MART guidance

Reducing the carbon footprint of salbutamol MDI inhalers by switching to Salamol® MDI

70% of inhalers prescribed in the UK are metered dose inhalers making them the single largest contributor to the NHS carbon emissions from medicines. When a patient cannot use a dry powder inhaler, Salamol® MDI is the preferred MDI option as it contains less than half the harmful carbon emissions of Ventolin® Evohaler.

Release of harmful greenhouse gases can be further reduced by asking patients to return empty inhalers to their pharmacy for disposal.

Please use [this link](#) to access the HWE ICB patient information letter to support the switch to Salamol® MDI.

Reminder: Extra Care Needed When Inhalers for Children and Young People are changed

Confusion over inhaler licensing has led to incidents where children and young people were switched from a licensed inhaler to one not approved for their age group. For example, some patients were changed from **Seretide** (licensed from 12 years) to **Sereflo** (unlicensed under 18 years).

Community pharmacies play a vital role in identifying such cases. If you notice a prescription for an inhaler that is unlicensed for children or young people, please inform the prescriber to ensure the choice aligns with licensing guidelines.

Prescribing support tools are available to assist clinicians, and your support is essential in promoting safe and appropriate inhaler use.



**Pharmacy First / Hypertension /
Contraception Services**

Pharmacy First Threshold for December - 20

Pharmacy contractors are being reminded that the activity threshold to be eligible for the £1,000 monthly payment is to provide a minimum of 20 clinical pathway consultations that pass the gateway point (as detailed in the clinical pathways) by 31 December 2024.

Please ensure that the consultations have been recorded correctly on your IT systems. Check out Community Pharmacy England's useful [guide](#) when claiming payment for Pharmacy First service.

Pharmacy First Myth Busting

MYTH: GPs cannot electronically refer patients for minor illness consultations as part of Pharmacy First.

Wrong!

FACT CHECK: The minor illness strand of the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) remained when the service became Pharmacy First. Therefore, GPs can still refer patients for a minor illness consultation with a pharmacist, as was the case for CPCS.

CPH has formed a Pharmacy First WhatsApp group for you to ask questions and seek support and guidance from your local colleagues.

[Join Pharmacy First WhatsApp Group](#)



National Updates

Headlines

- [Folic acid supplementation – advice to health professionals](#)
- [Call for Government action to tackle medicines shortages](#)
- [Budget to cost pharmacies £200 million without mitigation, pharmacy bodies warn](#)
- [Can you help with user research about pharmacy IT?](#)

- [COVID-19 vaccination bulletin](#)
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Development and Education

Still time to book ...

- **Pharmacy First:** CPPE has a range of [learning resources](#) to prepare and support pharmacy professionals to provide the NHS Pharmacy First service including the self-assessment framework, and competency requirements.
- **Funded IP training for community pharmacists** - the NHS is providing additional independent prescribing (IP) courses for community pharmacists, including locums. **Courses are available until March 2025** with various universities offering multiple intake dates. For more details visit the [NHS England website](#)

[More events](#)



Medicines Update

General

- [Drug Tariff Watch – December 2024](#)

- [November 2024 Price Concessions 4th Update](#)

Medicines Defects

- [MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Tramadol Hydrochloride 50 mg capsules & Tramadol Hydrochloride Morningside 50 mg Prolonged-Release capsules \(Morningside Healthcare Ltd\)](#)
- [MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Liothyronine Sodium 5 & 20 micrograms Tablets \(Strides Pharma UK Ltd\)](#)

Medicines Supply Notifications

- [Imiquimod \(Aldara® 5% and Bascellex® 50mg/g\) cream 250mg sachets](#)
- [Diclofenac \(Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose\) 0.1% eye drops](#)

Medicines Recall

- [MHRA Class 3 Medicines Recall: Baclofen 10mg/5ml Oral Solution \(Syri Limited, T/A SyriMed\)](#)



Resources

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- [Clinical and hazardous waste](#) - if you are accumulating a lot of pharmaceutical waste please use this link for support.
 - [Pharmacy closures](#)
 - [Local services payment timetable](#)
 - [Payment timetable and national deadline tracker](#)
 - [Controlled Drugs](#)
 - [NHS mail](#)
 - [NHS complaints](#)
 - [CPCF Services and Terms of Service - important dates](#)
 - [Interpreting and Translation services - East of England Region](#)

- [Medicine Shortages](#) - please use your locality WhatsApp/PCN group to identify medicines availability in your local area.
- [Local Signposting Services](#)

CPH will keep you up to date with the information and deadlines direct to your mobile.

[Join CPH WhatsApp Update Group](#)

Dont forget to also visit our website where you can find a wealth of information and resources for you and your pharmacy team, plus up to date training and development events and much more.

[CPH Website](#)

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