

Newsletter

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

Reminders

- **CPE Emergency Contraception and the PCS Webinar**

Date: Thursday 9 October | **Time:** 7:00pm | [Book Here](#) | [See Event Details](#)

Community Pharmacy England will be holding a webinar about the changes to the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS)

- **PQS 2025/26 Reminder**

Pharmacies must keep on-site evidence from 31 March 2026 that staff have completed the Emergency Contraception [e-learning](#) & [e-assessment](#), and all pharmacists have completed Consulting with People with Mental Health Problems [e-learning](#). More guidance is available on the [CPH website](#)

- **ABPM Training Tool**

Access the new CPH [training tool](#) for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring.

- **Newsletters & Updates** - The CPH website hosts a page with [newsletters and updates](#) from a range of organisations. Recent uploads include the [Suicide Prevention Network Newsletter](#) and the [Public Health Drugs & Alcohol Update](#)
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Hertfordshire

**Local
Updates**

🏆 Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire Wins at The Independent Pharmacy Awards 2025! 🏆

We are absolutely thrilled and deeply proud to share that Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire (CPH) has won the award for **Best Supporting Local Representative Group** at The Independent Pharmacy Awards 2025!

While this is a fantastic achievement for our organisation, the truth is, this award belongs to our community pharmacies. The congratulations we've received from our contractors—our true heroes on the front line—have been overwhelming. You continue to deliver essential services with dedication, all while navigating the start of this year's demanding vaccination season.

This award is recognition of the incredible work you do every single day, often under immense pressure.

Our Chief Officer **Helen Musson** and Chair **Rachel Solanki** were honoured to accept the award, but as always, there is no "I" in team. This accolade also celebrates the efforts of our brilliant CPH office team: **Niru Sivanesan**, Deputy Chief Officer; **Chloè Papadopoulos**, Services and Engagement Lead Officer; **Izzy Hicks**, Engagement Officer; and **Sara Norwood**, Business Officer, along with our dedicated committee members.

Together, we continue to showcase the vital role community pharmacies play in supporting patients and communities across Hertfordshire and beyond.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility: Support for Pharmacy Teams

We're aware that some Hertfordshire pharmacies are seeing patients booked for COVID-19 vaccinations who are not currently eligible via the National Booking System. We've put steps in place to escalate local examples to NHS England and CPE.

CPE has published posters and guidance to help pharmacy teams manage these situations and explain eligibility clearly.

Access them here: [CPE COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#).

Thank you for your continued professionalism and commitment in supporting patients and the vaccination programme.

Luton Drug Alert

Reports indicate that strong or possibly contaminated heroin is circulating in Luton. Bedfordshire Police are investigating. Please share this information with colleagues and partners who may come into contact with individuals at risk of exposure to synthetic opioids, and promote naloxone provision where possible. Any intelligence related to this alert should be reported urgently

to public.health@luton.gov.uk or LDIS@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Pharmacy First

Hypertension

Contraception

Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway Document

CPH has produced a [Side by Side Clinical Pathways](#) guide (24 September 2025), showing previous and updated versions of the seven clinical pathways to help pharmacy teams easily compare and review changes.

For the latest information, visit the [Pharmacy First Service](#) page on the CPH website.

CPPE Training Sessions

CPPE is offering training sessions to support delivery of NHS Pharmacy services. Enhance your consultation and clinical skills with:

- **Blood pressure assessment in community pharmacy- essential skills -**

Gain skills and confidence for NHS Hypertension Case-Finding with practical, person-centred training led by a clinical demonstrator. Hertfordshire session: **21 January 2026, 19:00-21:30**, Hertfordshire Sports Village. [Book your place here](#).

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**

Adult Flu Vaccinations – Sign the Correct PGD

This year, a national template Patient Group Direction (PGD) provided by the UKHSA has been used by NHS England's regions to create locally authorised PGDs for use in the [Adult Flu Vaccination Advanced Service](#).

Hertfordshire pharmacies are reminded to ensure they are using the correct regionally authorised PGD for the [East of England](#), as well as ensuring the Authorising Manager declaration has been completed.

All pharmacists and pharmacy technicians at a pharmacy, who are providing the service under the authority of the PGD, must also have signed the copy of the regionally authorised PGD at the pharmacy. More information can be found on the [CPE website](#).

ABPM bundling requirement to be delayed

The requirement to provide one ABPM consultation per month for the Pharmacy First bundling payment has been delayed.

This follows feedback from pharmacy teams and CPE regarding challenges in obtaining patient consent. Discussions are ongoing with DHSC and NHS England about alternative approaches, including home blood pressure monitoring.

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

Services and Regulatory changes

Several service and regulatory changes came into effect on 1st October 2025, including:

- Commencement of services
- Updated clinical pathways, protocol and PGDs for Pharmacy First
- Directed services can no longer be provided at distance selling premises (DSP) pharmacies
- Hub and Spoke dispensing NHS Terms of Service
- Additional regulatory changes
- NMS subcontracting will no longer be permitted

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

Headlines

- [Community Pharmacy England expands research and LPC support capacity with new roles](#)
 - [Update from our CEO: Influencing for the future](#)
 - [Community Pharmacy England publishes 2024/25 Annual Report](#)
 - [Services and Regulatory changes came into force from 1 October](#)
 - [Minister leads panel at Community Pharmacy England event](#)
 - [Invitation to independent pharmacy owners to join our committee](#)
 - [Hub and Spoke dispensing between different businesses comes into effect](#)
 - [Share your views: NHS app development and scan-to-shelf](#)
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**Development
&
Education**

FREE NHS Mental Health Awareness Training

Free online Mental Health Awareness Training session designed for anyone in a public-facing role who wants to better support colleagues, service users, friends or family members who may be experiencing mental health challenges

Date: 10 October | **Time:** 11am - 12:00 | [Book Here](#)

Optimising Infection Management – online workshop (CPPE)

Online workshop aiming to empower pharmacy professionals to review inappropriate prescriptions and support pharmacies in delivering the Pharmacy First service.

Date: 14 October | **Time:** 7:00 - 9:00pm | [Book Here](#) | [See Event Details](#)

Genomics Interactive Webinar (CPPE)

CPPE is providing an interactive webinar about genomics-informed medicines optimisation for pharmacy professionals. [Interactive Webinar](#)

Date: Wednesday 15 October | **Time:** 18:00 | [Register here](#)

Prescribing perspectives: a focus on weight management (CPPE)

Develop your knowledge and skills to adopt a structured approach to safely provide weight management medicines, whether the mechanism of supply is prescribing or under a patient group direction.

Two sessions are currently available:

Date: Tues 4 November 2025 | **Time:** 7:00 - 9:15pm | **Location:** Hertfordshire Sports Village

Date: Thurs 12 March 2026 | **Time:** 7:00 - 9:15pm | **Location:** Hertfordshire Sports Village

[Book your place](#)

NHS England Funded Independent Prescribing Courses 2025/26

Applications are open for NHS-funded independent prescribing courses for pharmacists, with start dates available through several universities until March 2026. Visit the [CPE website](#) for details.

[More Events](#)



Medicines

Update

General

- [43 products added to the Discount Not Deducted \(DND\) list from October 2025](#)
- [8 products re-classified as special containers from October 2025](#)
- [October 2025 Category M prices announced](#)
- [September 2025 Price Concessions Final Update](#)
- [Removal of prescribing restrictions on flu antivirals](#)
- [SLS endorsement requirements removed for Tadalafil and Vardenafil](#)
- [Retrospective price adjustment for Bisoprolol 5mg/5ml oral solution for August 2025](#)

Serious Shortage Protocols

- [SSPs for Estradot® patches \(SSP079, SSP080, SSP081, SSP082\) further extended](#)
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Resources

Immunisation Incidents Infographic

The Screening and Immunisation teams (SITs) are here to support you with any immunisation-related incidents.

[This infographic](#) outlines how to report immunisation incidents or cold chain breaches

Mental Health Support for Adults in Hertfordshire

Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Health and Care Partnership (MHLDA) have produced an [A5 leaflet](#) for distribution to patients as needed which provides details on advice, self referral and how to get help.

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

[Join CPH WhatsApp Update Group](#)

Don't 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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