

Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2024

If you haven't already done so, please complete the CPE Pharmacy Pressures Survey before **11.59pm on Tuesday 2nd April 2024**. See the CPE news story [here](#) for further information and to access the relevant survey.

Services Information

Flu Vaccination Service 2024/25 Season

On Tuesday 12th March 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care, the UK Health Security Agency and NHS England jointly published the national Flu Vaccination Programme letter for the 2024/25 season, which can be found [here](#). See the CPE news story [here](#) for details.

There are **no changes to the eligible cohorts** for the 2024/25 season and no changes recommended by JCVI for adult flu vaccines for 2024/2025. However, **from 1st September 2024**, pharmacies will only be able to vaccinate pregnant women. Then **from October 2024**, vaccination of the other adult cohorts will commence, with the exact starting date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course.

Pharmacy First – National Advanced Service

It is fantastic to see Pharmacy First continue to land successfully in so many areas, both across West Yorkshire and nationally.

Drop-in Sessions – Do You Have a Query About Pharmacy First?

Together CPWY and the NHS West Yorkshire ICB will be hosting a series of Q&A sessions on Microsoft Teams to answer any queries you may have about the service. The drop-in sessions are for anyone working in West Yorkshire who may be involved in Pharmacy First.

We are actively encouraging any member of the pharmacy and GP practice team to drop in to one of these sessions to ask any questions you have. These sessions are also open to locums so please pass on the details if your locums have queries that they are searching for answers to. You do not need to register to attend, simply join one of the sessions listed below using the links provided.

- Thursday 14th March 2024 – 12pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 4th April 2024 – 12.30pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday 25th April 2024 – 1 – 2pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Have You Got an Otoscope?

If you are a Bricks and Mortar pharmacy, then from **1st April 2024**, an otoscope **must** be available, and you must be able to offer **all** clinical pathways. You must also ensure the service is available throughout the pharmacy's full opening hours (i.e. core and supplementary).

NHS Funded Training for Pharmacy First

Now that Pharmacy First is here, help to build your pharmacy future with fully funded, flexible training tailored to your skills, experience and individual learning requirements. Learn new skills, support peer development and expand your clinical knowledge. Find out more and how to apply [here](#).

Further Resources & CPE FAQs

Further resources are available on our website [here](#) to help support you in delivering the service and in conversations with your local GP practices. CPE is also continually updating their Pharmacy First FAQ page – please go [here](#) for help with a wide range of Pharmacy First related queries.

Hypertension Case Finding Service

From 11th March 2024, a public campaign will encourage those aged 40 and over, to get a free blood pressure check at the nearest participating pharmacy. Resources have been produced to support the campaign and can be found [here](#). There are both printed and digital resources available for you to use to advertise the service in your pharmacy.

Please be mindful of who and when you target for a BP check – it is not always appropriate to check someone who is actively ill, under stress or flustered, under this service as the reading is likely to be higher than their normal level. It is good practice to repeat the measurement at a later time if the reading seems high and the patient is as detailed above. Please also be aware of the requirement to offer an ABPM where appropriate, in line with the service specification. The specification can be accessed [here](#).

New Medicines Service (NMS)

The NMS has proved invaluable in supporting patients starting new medicines and reducing the risk of non-adherence. It has also proven to be a very useful income stream for contractors.

Over the last few months there have been several high-profile stock shortages in addition to continual stock issues covering a huge range of medications and devices. This has led to a lot of patients having to have their medication reviewed and potentially changed to an alternative that is more readily available.

Please remember that, where the patient will benefit from an intervention, you are able to offer the NMS for a **change in form**. A recent good example of this is the shortage of Fiasp pre-filled pens leading to patients being swapped onto Fiasp cartridges. This is an ideal opportunity to offer the patient NMS, so they understand the differences between the two, ensuring they have been prescribed a reusable pen and feeding back any issues to the GP.

Make sure you are following up every NMS opportunity!

Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

Supporting Colleagues and Patients During Ramadan

Information on how to support colleagues during Ramadan can be found [here](#). Also, you can find some videos aimed at supporting patients to use their medicines and promote health and wellbeing during Ramadan [here](#).

Social Prescribing Day

Today (14th March 2024) is Social Prescribing Day! Social prescribing is a way for local agencies, including pharmacies, to refer people to a link worker. Link workers give people time, focusing on 'what matters to me' and taking a holistic approach to people's health and wellbeing. They connect people to community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support. Social prescribing works for a wide range of people, including people:

- *With one or more long-term conditions.*
- *Who need support with their mental health.*
- *Who are lonely or isolated.*
- *Who have complex social needs which affect their wellbeing.*

More information on Social Prescribing in West Yorkshire can be found [here](#) and resources relating to Social Prescribing Day can be found [here](#).

Reminder to Verify Your NHS Profile Manager Profile

We want to remind pharmacy owners to update their NHS Profile Manager by 31st March 2024 to ensure your pharmacy's NHS website and Directory of Service (DoS) profile information is current. [Learn more about registering and updating your profile](#)

Compliance with the NHS Terms of Service requires verifying opening hours, contact details, facilities, and services each financial quarter. This reminder is issued early to address two key points: ensuring visibility of new services like the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) service and updating opening hours for the upcoming Easter period.

Post Payment Verification Requirements

Within West Yorkshire, we have had a couple of examples of where pharmacies have had to evidence the consultations they have carried out for NMS as part of the PPV requirements. Some contractors have struggled to provide any evidence as they have been through a PMR change.

Please remember a change in PMR should still allow you access to your previous data and this process, and how you should access it, should be discussed at the transition period of PMRs. PMR providers understand the need for your achieved data to be archived securely but in an accessible way should you need it. NHS England will not accept change of PMR supplier as acceptable mitigation as part of a PPV process.

WY IP Pathfinder ICB Stakeholder Briefing Event

West Yorkshire ICB is participating in the NHS England Independent Prescribing Pathfinder (IP Pathfinder) Programme. The programme has been introduced by NHSE to inform the commissioning framework required to introduce independent prescribing into NHS community pharmacy services. The IP Pathfinder will explore how community pharmacists and their teams can deliver an integrated clinical service aligning prescribing activity with general practice and the population needs of local communities. This national IP Pathfinder Programme provides the opportunity to influence the future of independent prescribing within NHS community pharmacy and to test the different ways that independent prescribing in community pharmacy will benefit patients and the public. Developing the clinical skills of pharmacists as prescribers and pharmacy technicians with enhanced clinical skills to deliver clinical services is a key

strategic aim for NHS England to create access for patients and enable capacity across primary care. Please see the recent event recording: <https://youtu.be/7shtCH8XHOc>.

Pharmacy Education Update March 2024 – North East and Yorkshire

Please find the Pharmacy Education Update for March 2024 below.

[Pharmacy Education Update for March 2024](#)

Key News and Guidance: The Latest Updates from Community Pharmacy England

Please ensure you are regularly checking your emails for updates from Community Pharmacy England. The most up to date information can be found on their News page [here](#). Sign up to the mailing list [here](#). Community Pharmacy England also has checklist of important dates for community pharmacies regarding services and requirements. See this information [here](#).

Training and Development

- **CPWY Events** – details of upcoming events will be posted on our website.
- **CPWY e-Learning** – [click here](#) to see the latest Virtual Outcomes e-Learning modules available for West Yorkshire pharmacy teams to access!
- **CPPE Events** – [click here](#) to see the current workshops available to pharmacists, pre-registration pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, **from December 2023**.

CPWY Connect

[CPWY Connect](#) has been set up on the social media site Telegram with the aim of connecting pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire and we'd love you to join by [clicking here](#).