

### Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026: Please Share Your Views

Community Pharmacy England's Pressures Survey is currently underway and we are urging community pharmacy owners and pharmacy team members across West Yorkshire to help CPE quantify financial constraints, medicines supply issues, staffing pressures, the impact on patients and much more in this annual survey. **Every contribution is important in building up the strongest possible picture of the challenges you are facing.**

There are two separate surveys: one for pharmacy business owners / head office representatives and the other for pharmacy teams. The surveys will remain open until **11:59pm on 16th March 2026**. For more information and to complete either surveys, [click here](#).

**Thank you in advance!**

## Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS)

### FINAL REMINDER: PQS Declaration Window Closes Tomorrow!

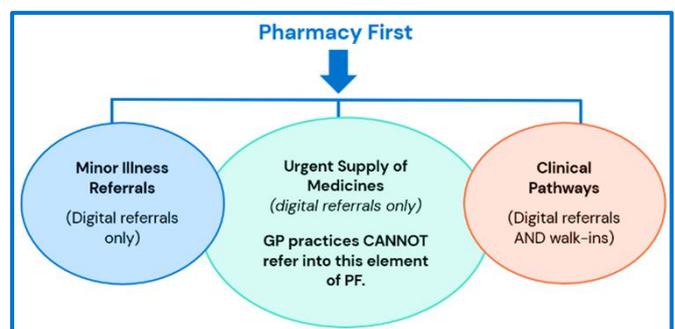
We would like to remind pharmacy owners that they need to declare which PQS domains they intend to meet via the MYS portal **before the window closes tomorrow night at 11.59pm (27th February 2026)**. **Once the window closes, no declarations are able to be made.** Further information on the PQS can be found [here](#). An overview of the requirements for Domain 1 can be found in our recent communication [here](#), and Domain 2 [here](#).

## Services Information

### Pharmacy First: It's Not Just About Clinical Pathways

In last week's News Digest, we highlighted minor illness consultations. As a reminder, minor illness referrals **do not** have to relate to a Clinical Pathway condition, and all digital referrals received for minor illness consultations must be processed and submitted for payment.

(See our latest Quick Dose Knowledge Capsule [here](#) which focuses on the minor illness element of Pharmacy First).



This week, Community Pharmacy England (CPE) has produced a useful briefing on the urgent supply of medicines strand of the Pharmacy First Service, which provides detailed information on undertaking patient consultations, handling requests for medicines liable to abuse, and record-keeping requirements to ensure your pharmacy remains fully compliant. Read the briefing [here](#).

## Quick Dose: Knowledge Capsule: Podcast (Episode 6) – Pharmacy First Sore Throat Pathway

Our 'Quick Dose: Knowledge Capsule' items are designed to deliver key pharmacy insights in clear, bite-sized formats for fast learning.

This episode is the sixth in our podcast series looking at the **Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways** – this episode focuses on the **Sore Throat pathway**.



In our Pharmacy First podcast series, we are joined by Dr Phil Xiu, a dedicated GP based in Leeds, who shares expert insights, answers key questions, and offers practical tips to help pharmacy teams with delivering the Pharmacy First Service. [Watch the sixth episode here.](#)

See the other episodes available [here](#).

- More information about the **Pharmacy First Service** can be found [here](#).
- Information regarding **DPP Support** can be found [here](#).

**Keep an eye out for episode 7 coming soon!**

## Spring 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign – Provider Guide

Provider guidance for the Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination campaign is now available to support preparations. Please see [here](#).

There will be changes to the legal mechanisms for administering COVID-19 vaccines for Spring 2026. The legislation that enabled the National Protocol will expire on 31st March 2026. For the Spring programme, the anticipated legal mechanisms are:

- *Patient Group Directions (PGDs)*
- *Patient Specific Directions (PSDs)*
- *A nationally developed Vaccine Group Direction (subject to new legislation)*

The Vaccine Group Direction will continue to allow appropriately trained and competent registered and non-registered staff to deliver the programme.

The PGD is expected to be published in March 2026, and the Vaccine Group Direction on 1st April 2026.

An updated version of this [provider guide](#) is expected to be published in March 2026, when further details, including links to the relevant legal mechanisms, will be available.

## Training Webinars

The Spring 2026 campaign introduces a new provider-led vaccine supply model. NHSE is hosting training webinars to help providers understand how to order vaccine and manage allocations using the Federated Data Platform (FDP). Sessions available are:

- *Thursday 26th February at 7–7:45pm. Register [here](#).*
- *Tuesday 3rd March at 3:30–4:30pm. Register [here](#).*
- *Wednesday 4th March at 10–11am. Register [here](#).*
- *There are also 3 drop-in sessions – see [here](#).*

Each session covers the same content – providers need only attend one per category. Attendees should log into the Federated Data Platform beforehand.

## Reminder – All Local EHC Services Ending This Week

Following the extension of the national Pharmacy Contraception Service, which now includes emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), all locally commissioned EHC services will be ending from this Saturday (28th February 2026). **All EHC consultations should now be provided under the national Pharmacy Contraception Service.**

## Bradford Council Living Well Stop Smoking Service – Contract Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March

A reminder for pharmacies providing Level 1 (NRT supply) and Level 2 (behavioural support) Stop Smoking services in Bradford that the contract will end on 31st March 2026. Please note that these services should not be provided after this date.

## New CPPE PGD Workshop Supports Pharmacy Technician Capability to Grow NHS Services

[PGDs: Empowering pharmacy technicians to provide services](#) is a new CPPE workshop designed to equip pharmacy technicians with the competence and confidence to safely supply or administer medicines under Patient Group Directions (PGDs), as part of clinical services.

As pharmacy technicians take on expanded responsibilities under PGDs, employers have an opportunity to strengthen service delivery and optimise workforce skill mix for the delivery of NHS services. The practical, scenario-based training helps technicians to develop the practical skills needed to apply PGD frameworks, to deliver high-quality consultations.

## Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

### Celebrating Our Advent Calendar Winners!

Our CEO, Nicola, had the pleasure of visiting each of our three lucky colleagues over the last month to hand over their prizes.

Each winner received a £100 John Lewis voucher to treat themselves to something special along with a box of chocolates to share with their team. It was wonderful to meet our winners and hear more about their individual pharmacies, the services they provide and even meet some of the team too.



Thank you once again to everyone who took part in our Advent Calendar throughout December on the [CPWY WhatsApp group](#). We loved seeing the daily engagement from you.

### CPWY Pre-Committee Meeting Survey

Our next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026. If you wish to put something forward to be raised at our meeting, please complete the short survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/UJLnpZQvuf>.

Details of the committee, including minutes from previous meetings, accounts and constitution can be found on our website, [www.cpsy.org](http://www.cpsy.org), under the 'About Us' tab (on the far right).

Observers are welcome to attend the open session of these meetings. If you would like to attend a future meeting, please email [info@cpwy.org](mailto:info@cpwy.org).

## Follow-Up Reminder: Sexual Safety Charter

Primary care providers who have not yet signed up to the Sexual Safety Charter or completed the national self-assurance checklist will have received a follow-up email from West Yorkshire ICB on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February (via your shared NHSmail).

In January, all providers were asked to take action ahead of new legal duties coming into force to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. The national request included three key steps:

- Sign up to the 10 principles of the [Sexual Safety Charter](#).
- Complete the [primary care self-assurance checklist](#) to evidence awareness and compliance with legal duties to prevent sexual harassment, and work towards compliance for those which come into force later this year.
- Confirm completion via the [national online form](#) by **31st March 2026**.

While these actions are not mandatory, they are strongly encouraged to support compliance with upcoming legislation and to help shape future national support.

More details about this can be found on the Community Pharmacy England website [here](#).

## Data Security and Protection Toolkit – Webinar Recording

Pharmacy owners can now watch a recording of Community Pharmacy England's (CPE) online workshop on completing the [2026 Data Security and Protection Toolkit](#) ahead of the 30th June submission deadline. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

*During the webinar, representatives from CPE and NHS England's cybersecurity team provided guidance on completing the Toolkit questions, gave a demonstration of how to use and navigate the Toolkit, and answered viewers' questions on how to make the data security declaration.*

## Training and Development

- **CPWY Events:**
  - *Future events will be published here once confirmed.*
- **CPWY e-Learning** – [click here](#) to see the latest Virtual Outcomes e-Learning modules available for West Yorkshire pharmacy teams to access!
- **CPPE Events** – The next set of face to face and online workshops are now live for booking. See the documents below for further details on workshops and resources:
  - [CPPE Community Pharmacy Update – January 2026](#)

## CPWY Connect – WhatsApp Group

Our CPWY Connect WhatsApp group is a messaging group created to connect and support pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire. *The group was originally hosted on Telegram, however, was retired in the new year.*

