

Services Information

Hypertension Case-Finding Service – Changes to the Service from 3rd September 2026

The Hypertension Case-Finding Service (HCFS) service specification has been updated, with several significant changes coming into effect from next month (Thursday 3rd September 2026). All HCFS providers are strongly advised to read the updated specification and familiarise themselves with the changes ahead of the implementation date – see [here](#).

Summary of the Key Changes

- Patients already receiving treatment for hypertension are **not eligible** for a clinic blood pressure check.
- In line with NICE guidance, there is now a general exclusion for individuals who have had their blood pressure checked within the **previous five years**.
- Practices can only signpost patients for clinic checks if **aged 40 years and over, no diagnosis of hypertension and have not had a BP check within the previous five years**.
- Other commissioned healthcare professionals supporting hypertension case-finding, such as optometrists and dentists (excluding other community pharmacies), can request ABPM following a clinic check undertaken at their practice.
- Off-site provision is now subject to tighter requirements, with a maximum of **four days** of off-site provision permitted per financial year. ICB approval must continue to be obtained in advance.

Other changes provide further clarification on patient consent, the use of clinical judgement, ABPM requirements, the escalation of abnormal findings and health promotion. Requirements for record keeping, claiming, monitoring, post-payment verification and service withdrawal have also been aligned with those set out in other Advanced Service specifications. Find out more about the changes [here](#).

- [Download the revised service specification](#)

This [CPE briefing on the changes](#) is helpful and highlights the main changes to the service.

A reminder that pharmacies delivering the HCFS must ensure they have both a blood pressure monitor and an Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) device available to meet the service requirements.

The updated specification firms up this requirement stating that “*a working and appropriately calibrated blood pressure monitor and ABPM monitor (subject to current patient loan)*” is available for inspection at the pharmacy should the ICB undertake a site visit.

ABPM should be offered to patients in a timely manner where clinic blood pressure results are between 140/90mmHg and 180/120mmHg e.g. on the same day as the clinic reading where an ABPM device is available, as soon as convenient to the patient, or as soon as an ABPM device will become available (ideally within a few days of the initial clinic measurement).

ABPM Machines – Discount for West Yorkshire Contractors

EMT Healthcare has informed us that they will offer a 5% discount on their Hingmed ABPM machines (product code WBPO2A). The price of the device has gone up to £630 but the previous price of £599 will be honoured for WY contractors.

To take up this offer please email lauren@emthealthcare.co.uk and use the code 'CPWY30'.

Note: this does not mean that CPWY endorse or support the use of this monitor. We are sharing details of a discount available. As a reminder, ABPMs used in the service must be validated by the British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS). Before a decision is made about the purchase or rental of equipment, there are several considerations to think about – see the CPE webpage [here](#) for further details.

Seasonal Vaccination Services

COVID-19 and Adult Flu – Key Updates

IMPORTANT – The Way Pharmacies Must Record NHS Vaccinations is Changing to RAVS

From 1st September 2026, community pharmacies must record all NHS vaccinations in the **Record a Vaccination Service (RAVS)**, either accessing the service directly or via an approved pharmacy IT system. NHSE is currently working with pharmacy IT suppliers to make it easier to access RAVS from their systems, however, you will still need to sign up for a RAVS account if you don't already have one.

- Pharmacies without access to RAVS can request access [here](#)
- The RAVS User Guide is available [here](#).

National Booking Service Opens this Monday (17th August 2026)

The National Booking Service (NBS) opens on Monday, and you can now start to add seasonal vaccination appointments for your pharmacy via the Manage Your Appointments (MYA) website, ready for patients to book when the NBS opens.

Pharmacies can add September appointments for flu vaccinations for pregnant adults, with appointments from 1st October onwards available for COVID-19, adult flu and childhood flu vaccinations. A new functionality is being introduced for this season, which means the appointment dates shown to some users will depend on their cohort.

The NBS uses the patient's NHS number to check eligibility based on age. Where eligibility is based on other criteria, the system cannot verify this automatically, so patients will be asked to review the eligibility criteria and self-declare their eligibility. Patients who self-declare will be advised that vaccination will only be provided if they meet the eligibility criteria, which will be confirmed by a clinician at the appointment.

Important: Adult Flu Vaccination Service Registration

Pharmacies wishing to provide just adult flu vaccinations must register to provide the service via MYS as soon as possible. Vaccinations must not be administered before your pharmacy has successfully registered for the service, as vaccinations given prior to registration will not be eligible for payment.

COVID-19 and Adult Flu Vaccination Service Registration

Pharmacies wishing to provide both COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations were required to register via MYS by the end of July to guarantee COVID-19 vaccine supply ahead of 1st October service launch. Pharmacies can still register to provide both services; however, COVID-19 vaccine supply cannot be guaranteed in time for 1st October.

NHSE Guidance – Seasonal Vaccination Programme Guide for Autumn/Winter 2026/27

This [guide](#) brings together the key operational information required for pharmacies to provide the Adult Flu, COVID-19 and Children's Flu Programmes.

All pharmacy owners signed up to provide any of the vaccination programmes should read the content relevant to the services they will be providing.

NEW! VirtualOutcomes e-Learning Module: COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Services 2026

This new module will help you and your team understand:

- *Key changes to this year's campaigns.*
- *The new Vaccine Group Direction (VGD).*
- *The use of RAVS.*

More information can be found in the flyer [here](#), or on the VirtualOutcomes website [here](#).

Childhood Flu Vaccination Service – Less Than a Month Left to Register!

Pharmacies wishing to provide the 2026/27 Childhood Flu Vaccination Service must also register via the MYS portal by **midnight on 31st August 2026** to receive vaccine supplies ahead of the service launch on 1st October 2026.

Note: pharmacies who provided the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service in 2025/26 are required to **re-register** for the service if they intend to provide it again this Autumn/Winter.

The service specification for the 2026/27 Childhood Flu Service was recently published and is available [here](#). The specification has been updated following the recent announcement that people experiencing homelessness aged 16 years and over will be included in the National Flu Programme. This update ensures the Childhood Flu Service covers 16- and 17-year-olds, who fall outside the eligibility criteria for the Adult Flu service specification.

Join Forward Leeds for International Overdose Awareness Day – Friday 28th August 2026

Community pharmacy teams are invited to join Forward Leeds on Friday 28th August for International Overdose Awareness Day Event in Leeds, Park Square (LS1 2NP).

Drop in anytime between 10:00am and 2:30pm to learn more about alcohol, drugs and overdose prevention, meet local support services, and help raise awareness of life-saving interventions. Highlights include:

- **11:00am** – *a memorial and minute's silence to remember those lost to overdose.*
- **12:30pm** – *Live naloxone demonstration, showcasing how to use this life-saving medication, now available free from several pharmacies across Leeds.*

International Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity to support individuals, families and communities affected by overdose, promote prevention and education, and help reduce stigma. More information is available on Forward Leeds website [here](#).

A list of pharmacies offering naloxone services in Leeds is available [here](#).

Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

GPhC Revalidation: New Resources and September Webinar Details

The GPhC has published new resources (see [here](#)) to help pharmacists and pharmacy technicians get more value from the revalidation process and better understand what is expected.

The updated resources include:

- *A statement clarifying the appropriate use of AI when completing revalidation.*
- *Additional guidance and examples for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in specialist and leadership roles of how revalidation can demonstrate that they continue to practise safely and effectively in these positions.*
- *Updated FAQs and good practice examples including for pharmacist IPs.*
- *Details for IPs around the GPhC's expectations for demonstrating how prescribing knowledge and skills are maintained through revalidation, whether you are actively prescribing or wish to retain your prescriber annotation.*

GPhC Webinar – Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 7-8pm

This free webinar will support the launch of these new resources and cover revalidation requirements for pharmacist independent prescribers and future developments to the framework. The webinar will also include a Q&A with the team leading the work. [Register here](#).

Whether you're preparing for your next revalidation submission or simply want to understand the latest guidance, we encourage all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to explore the new resources and register for the webinar.

Sharing Stories to Influence the Safer Use of Medicines

The [CHARMER research team](#), based at the University of East Anglia, is inviting patients, carers and families to share their experiences of medicines being reviewed during a hospital stay.

For the past five years, CHARMER has been working with more than 20 hospitals across England to test new approaches to geriatrician-led medication reviews. The aim is to increase the benefits of medicines, reduce medicine-related harm and improve overall patient wellbeing.

A call for patient and carer stories has also been published on the Patient Safety Learning Hub [here](#), highlighting the question: *Can one less medicine make a difference?*

Patient insights can help shape future practice and encourage wider adoption of medicines reviews in hospital settings.

The flyer [here](#) can be used to encourage patients to get involved and share their story.

Training and Development

- **CPWY Events:**
 - *Event details will be posted here when published.*
- **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 document below for further details on workshops and resources:
 - [CPPE Community Pharmacy Update – Spring/Summer 2026](#)

CPWY Connect – WhatsApp Group

Our CPWY Connect WhatsApp group is a messaging group created to connect and support pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire.

