Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

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Community Pharmacy Prescribing Event: Preparing for Implementation in West Yorkshire

Wednesday 14th October 2026

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Ruth Buchan – Head of Medicines Optimisation Assurance and Community Pharmacy, West Yorkshire ICB

Sponsored by: GSK Nestlé Nutrition & Health Preventx.

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Housekeeping!

- **There is no planned fire alarm** for this evening but in the unlikely event of a fire alarm, please exit calmly via the nearest marked exit.
- **Toilets** can be found outside of the meeting room in the foyer.
- **Photos and recordings** may be taken at the event, if you do not want to be in any photos, please let one of the CPWY team know on departure.

Please ensure you have registered your car for free parking.



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Tonight's Agenda

1) Overview of Community Pharmacy Prescribing Services – A national update covering the seven existing pathways, five new pathways, contraception, and Prescription Management.

2) Getting Ready for NHS Prescribing – Contractor responsibilities under the Professional Assurance Framework, competence expectations, governance requirements, and digital readiness.

3) CPWY Support for Contractors – How CPWY will help you interpret requirements, prepare governance and operational processes, and build confidence ahead of implementation.

4) ICB Onboarding Process – What approval involves, evidence expectations, timelines, and digital system authorisation.

5) Q&A session.

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Overview of Community Pharmacy Prescribing Services

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Getting ready for NHS Prescribing

October 2026

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An overview of NHS Community Pharmacy Prescribing Services

A Prescribing Pharmacy will be able to deliver the community pharmacy prescribing service as set out in the CPCF 2026/27:

- ✓ Prescribe for the 7 existing clinical pathways (instead of using PGDs)
- ✓ Deliver 5 additional pathways
- ✓ Prescribe existing and alternative contraceptive products
- ✓ Support patients through Prescription Management

Prescribing Pharmacies/ pharmacists must:

- ✓ Follow the Professional Assurance Framework
- ✓ Comply with Prescribing and service specifications, directions and guidance relating to Pharmacy First, Contraception and Prescription Management
- ✓ Have the required competencies for the condition they are managing and medicines they are prescribing. Pharmacists should have a plan to upskill themselves to deliver all clinical pathways.

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Prescribing Pharmacies will be funded by 3 streams

Set up fee	**£500** **(one off payment following confirmation of registration and assured EPS product)**
Monthly infrastructure fee	£525 monthly (supporting ongoing costs of maintaining a prescribing service e.g. EPS costs, clinical supervision)
Service fee	• £17 for Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways • £20 or £25 for Contraception services

Eligible Prescribing Pharmacies must

- Have a minimum prescriber availability 24 hours per week
- Offer prescribing based national services as per CPCF
- Offer Prescription Management processes in line with guidance and local ICB agreements

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Prescribing within Pharmacy First

Prescribing extends eligibility in the existing seven pharmacy first clinical pathways when within clinical competence of the prescriber

- Medicines specific e.g. hypersensitivity, cannot swallow capsules and PGD does not include liquid formulation
- Patient specific e.g. just outside of age criterion

Prescribing guidance documents will be available to support those extending scope beyond current clinical pathways / navigation tools

Prescribing can be limited to using the current PGDs as a navigation tool and prescribing when required rather than PGD supply so should be within current competencies

Five new prescribing pathways that extend the current management options available through over-the-counter options and licences

- Low-frequency episodic migraine (adults 18–64)
- Seasonal allergic rhinitis in children
- Acute otitis externa in adults (18 and over)
- Mild-to-moderate acne
- Mild skin and soft tissue infections and scabies

Navigation tools will be available

Must be delivered as a Prescribing Pharmacy

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Prescribing within the Pharmacy Contraception Service

Pharmacist prescribing will enhance the service by increasing access, choice and continuity of care through safe, clinically appropriate contraception management

Prescribing can be limited to using the current PGDs as a navigation tool and prescribing when required rather than PGD supply so should be within current competencies

Prescribing guidance documents will be available to support those extending scope beyond current PGDs

- Prescribing of additional contraceptive products such as vaginal rings and patches
- Prescribing of oral medicines for contraceptive and secondary non-contraceptive uses
- Prescribing and administration of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) depot injection

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Prescription Management enablement

Prescription Management provides a safe and efficient framework for resolving prescription-related issues, supporting continuity of treatment, improving patient experience and reducing avoidable workload across primary care.

Allows pharmacist prescribers to resolve prescription-related issues by making appropriate prescribing interventions or alternative treatment decisions.

Prescription management guidance

NHS England have produced guidance to support pharmacist prescribers with prescription management.

Available on the BSA website NHS Community Pharmacy prescribing page: https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/nhs-community-pharmacy-prescribing

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For prescribing consultations, you will need:

1. A clinical system to record prescribing consultations
2. Access to clinical records - appropriate information to make a safe prescribing decision; otherwise refer appropriately
3. EPS approved prescribing system (+ smart card/authentication permissions updated)
4. Access to NHS BSA MYS for "Prescribing Consultation Claims" (after onboarding)
5. Mechanism to send a summary of the consultation to GP (via NHS.net Connect)

Prescribing consultations are claimed manually by NHSBSA MYS Portal for Prescribing Consultations

Prescribing consultations must NOT be recorded or claimed for using the existing Pharmacy First/Contraception PGD service templates.

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Key points

No changes to existing national referral/signposting pathways into Pharmacy First and Contraception services. The pharmacy will determine how to manage based on if they are a Prescribing Pharmacy or not, and if the prescriber is working.

Prescribing consultations must NOT be recorded or claimed for using the existing Pharmacy First/Contraception PGD service templates. Existing templates do NOT support prescribing and the payment model for prescribing is different.

A patient's clinical record can be viewed via:

- National Care Records Service (Summary Care Record)
- GP Connect Access Record Structured – Medications, Observations and Investigations (available via Pharmacy First/Contraception clinical system)
- GP Connect Access Record HTML
- Local Shared Care Records (not available in WY)

Expectation that if patient has been triaged to have a consultation with a Pharmacist Prescriber, that they will not follow PGD route.

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Further details

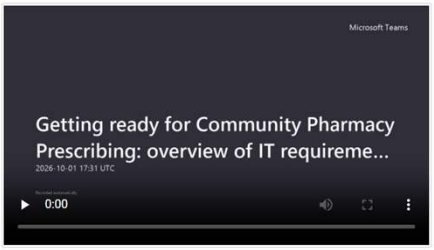
NHS Futures page: Prescribing - NHS England Pharmacy Integration Programme - Futures

Digital Webinar 1 Oct 2026 on NHS Futures

- Current IT options including EPS
- Further details on the prescribing

BSA NHS BSA Website community pharmacy prescribing information for Contractors

Getting ready for Community Pharmacy Prescribing overview of IT requirements



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Getting Ready for NHS Prescribing

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Getting ready for NHS prescribing

Required governance and processes

Prescribing Pharmacies/ pharmacists must:

- ✓ Follow the Professional Assurance Framework
- ✓ Comply with Prescribing and service specifications, directions and guidance relating to Pharmacy First, Contraception and Prescription Management
- ✓ Have the required competencies for the condition they are managing and medicines they are prescribing

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Why professional assurance is becoming more important

Expanding clinical role of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians within community pharmacy:

- Newly qualified pharmacists will graduate as independent prescribers from summer 2026
- Pharmacy technicians added to PGD list
- 10-year health plan and medium-term planning framework focus on the increasing role of community pharmacy in preventative health and neighbourhood health services
- Step change from dispensing service to frontline clinical responsibility

Currently we do not have a performers list for pharmacists or pharmacy technicians, unlike other healthcare professionals working within the primary care setting (GPs, opticians and dentists).

A mechanism for assurance that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians providing clinical services can provide safe and effective care

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Professional Assurance: roles and expectations

ICBs / commissioners	Employers / contractors	Professionals
• Sets local expectations, seeks proportionate organisational assurance and agrees any actions. • Embed requirements in onboarding and oversight of clinical services and Prescribing Pharmacies • Request assurance evidence from contractors	• Put in place workforce readiness, governance, supervision, records and concerns are managed. • Keep assurance records and demonstrate how meet expectations if requested by commissioner	• Demonstrate scope, competence and support needs • Prescribers to evidence: declaration, portfolio, supervision and annual review

Proportionate assurance for safe delivery

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Professional Assurance Framework

Professional assurance framework published NHS England » Professional assurance framework for delivering NHS community pharmacy clinical services	Outlines standards and best practice for all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians involved in the delivery of NHS commissioned community pharmacy clinical services
Mandated for prescribing pharmacies, but recommended for all NHS clinical services	
Outlines actions and roles for contractors and professionals	Applies to both permanent and locum pharmacists / pharmacy technicians
Applicable to NHS commissioned services delivered in England	The principles are however equally applicable to: Clinical pharmacy services commissioned by other organisations / pathways e.g. local authorities Private services

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Why the Professional Assurance Framework matters now

As clinical, prescribing and PGD-based services expand, the PAF makes responsibilities explicit and provides a consistent route from expectations to evidence and action.

Expanding services

More clinical, prescribing and PGD-based activity in community pharmacy.

Service readiness

Confidence that people are fit for purpose for each service and setting.

Clear accountability

Clear responsibilities for commissioners, employers and professionals.

Patient safety

Earlier identification, support and proportionate management of gaps or concerns.

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Before go-live: what employers need in place

The organisation should be able to demonstrate that people, governance and support arrangements are ready for safe service delivery, including for permanent and locum staff.

Workforce assurance

- Confirm registration and any practice restrictions
- Complete relevant employment and enhanced DBS checks
- Confirm service-specific skills, qualifications and training

Scope and competence

- Define each professional's scope of practice
- Confirm fitness for purpose for the service
- Record prescribing scope and fitness-for-purpose declarations where relevant

Cover and prescribing status

- Ensure appropriate professional indemnity, including prescribing cover
- Verify independent prescriber annotation
- Ensure prescribers are included in relevant NHS prescribing arrangements

Service governance

- Make service specifications, SOPs and relevant agreements available and understood
- Complete clinical risk assessment before launch or expanding scope
- Put induction and PGD/VGD authorisation arrangements in place where applicable

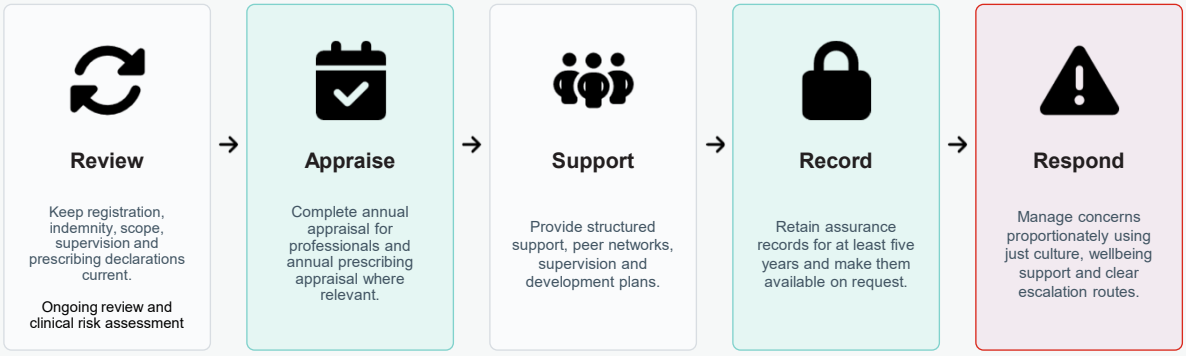
Support and oversight

- Provide access to clinical supervision and professional support
- Set clear escalation routes for concerns
- Plan ongoing review, appraisal, development and record retention

The employer remains responsible for assuring itself that each professional is ready for the specific service and role.

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After go-live: employers keep assurance active



Contractor accountability: maintain clear evidence, support safe practice and have proportionate routes to identify, manage and escalate concerns.

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Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians: discussing readiness before and throughout delivery

Before go-live

- Hold current registration
- Define competence and scope of practice
- Review service specifications and SOPs
- Complete required training
- Confirm appropriate indemnity
- Complete IP or PGD requirements where relevant

Ongoing

- Maintain CPD and revalidation
- Review competence and scope regularly
- Make clear, accurate and timely records
- Engage with supervision and peer support
- Maintain prescribing portfolio and appraisal where relevant
- Raise concerns affecting ability to practise
- Consider clinical audit to support continued competence and scope of practice

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Pharmacist Independent Prescribers

Prescribing adds six key assurance considerations

For Prescribing Pharmacies and pharmacists prescribing within NHS commissioned services.

Listed and verified

GPhC IP annotation verified and pharmacist included in the NHSBSA prescriber details dataset.

Declared scope

Fitness-for-purpose and prescribing scope declarations completed and kept current.

Covered

Professional indemnity specifically covers prescribing activity.

Supported

Regular access to a named clinical supervisor or prescribing mentor.

Portfolio

Professional prescribing portfolio maintained — mandatory in Prescribing Pharmacies.

Reviewed annually

Prescribing competence self-assessed and prescribing practice reviewed and appraised at least annually.

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Scope of practice

Prescribers can follow the existing PGD/ clinical pathway (Pharmacy First and Contraception) and supply medicines as per PGDs/ clinical pathway BUT via prescription.

Pharmacy First and Pharmacy Contraception Prescribing can be limited to using the current PGDs as a navigation tool and prescribing when required rather than PGD supply so should be within current competencies.

Pharmacists may also use the new prescribing guidance (to be published) to extend the care they provide and prescribe beyond the limits of existing PGDs and clinical pathways.

For the five new Pharmacy First pathways, prescribing must follow national guidelines (further details will be provided).

Prescribing must remain within each pharmacist's competence and scope of practice. Pharmacists should plan to develop the skills needed to deliver all clinical pathways.

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Prescriber Competence

Self-assess your prescribing competence annually to identify areas for development and ensure fitness for purpose – the Royal College of Pharmacy Prescribing Competency Framework can be used to support this.

Put in place a development plan when considering expanding prescribing scope of practice – the Royal College of Pharmacy Expanding Prescribing Scope of Practice can be used to support with this

Useful resources

- A competency framework for all prescribers - Royal College of Pharmacy
- CPPE Prescribing Gateway
- Community of practice hosted by the WY Primary Care Training Hub
- Pharmacy Clinical Training - 7 modules covered over several bitesize sessions between September 2026 and March 2027 hosted by the WY Primary Care Training Hub

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CPWY Support for Contractors

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CPWY Support for Contractors

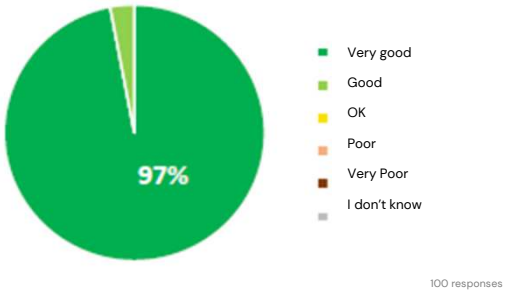
Taking learning from the IP pathfinder sites, we are working closely with those providers to understand what went well and how they developed their governance processes.

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IP Pathfinder Learning

Overall, how would you rate your pharmacist consultation experience today?

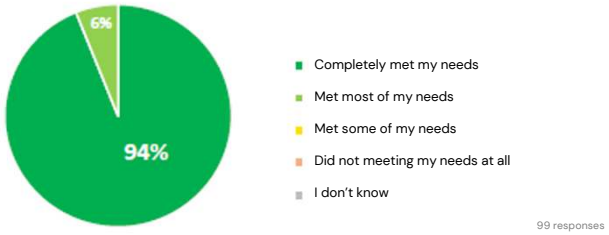


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IP Pathfinder Learning

Do you think the pharmacist consultation service you received today met your needs?



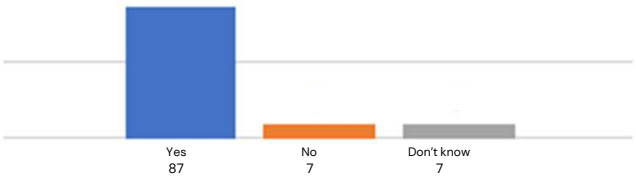
99 responses

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IP Pathfinder Learning

Has the pharmacist consultation service you received today saved you from making another healthcare appointment?



101 responses

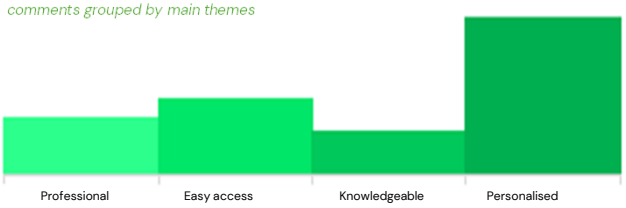
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IP Pathfinder Learning

What was good about your visit?

comments grouped by main themes



99 responses

How could we improve?

comments grouped by main themes

0 responses

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IP Governance Requirements

- Service & Clinical Governance
- Prescriber Assurance
- Competence & Support
- Safe operating environment
- Ongoing professional assurance
- Owner evidence & oversight



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CPWY Readiness Support

Resources which be available

- Toolkit to support both the contractor and the prescriber
- Go live readiness checklist

For those that request support we can visit either face to face or virtually to help with sections of the toolkit you need support with.

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WY ICB Onboarding Process

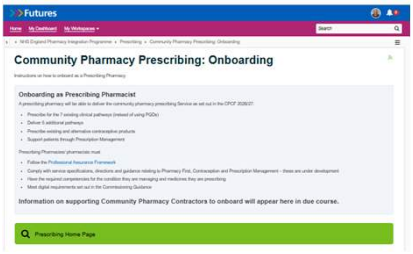
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Onboarding

Onboarding guidance is available on the NHS Futures page: [Community Pharmacy Prescribing: Onboarding - NHS England Pharmacy Integration Programme - Futures]



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Onboarding

Detailed onboarding guidance will be made available

Contractor Declares
- Contractor makes Declaration online via NHSBSA website
- Provides details of Prescribing Pharmacists

ICB Approves
- ICB receives, reviews and approves
- Requests NHSBSA to set up a Cost Centre

Contractor initiates procurement of EPS prescribing system (lead time)

NHSBSA create Cost Centre
- Pharmacist Prescribers added to Cost Centre (GPhC number)

Contractor requests update to Smart Card permissions

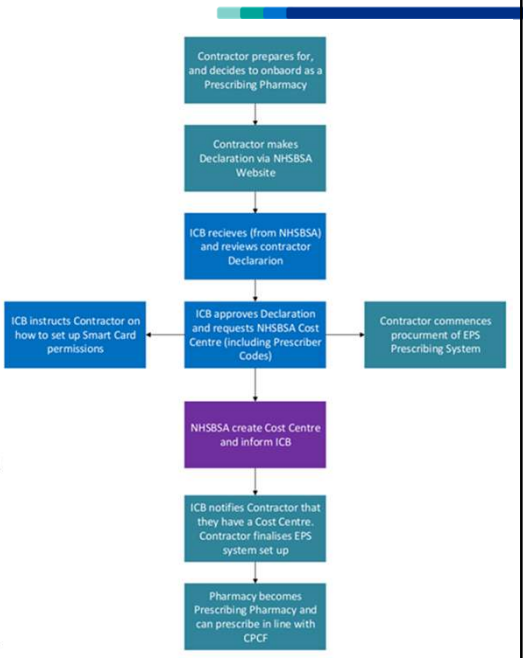
When all in place

Contractor completes procurement of EPS prescribing system

Pharmacy becomes a Prescribing Pharmacy and **ensures all other requirements a**

Contractor notifies ICB of intended **start date** for delivery

Pharmacy can commence prescribing as per service specifications and guidance on successful completion of the onboarding process



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Indicative timeline

Subject to change

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Early October	Pharmacy Contractor webinar on IT 'Getting ready to become a prescribing pharmacy: IT Options' NHS BSA Website community pharmacy prescribing information for Contractors • Draft Prescription Management Guidance • Guidance for Pharmacy Contractors: Onboarding as Prescribing Pharmacy • Professional Assurance Framework
Mid-October 2026	• Draft Prescribing Specification published on NHS BSA website • NHS BSA Declaration process opens, enabling pharmacies to submit declarations to become a Prescribing Pharmacy and implement the required service requirements via NHS BSA website.
October / November 2026	Final publications of legal documents: • Legal Service Directions via the Drug Tariff • Prescribing Specification for terms of service • Updated Pharmacy First Specification • Updated Contraception Specification Other supporting documents • Pharmacy First and Pharmacy Contraception Service Clinical Prescribing Guidance • Visual decision-making support tool for each of the five new prescribing conditions
Commence prescribing	Community pharmacy contractors will be able to commence prescribing once: • Cost centres are set up for the designated Prescribing Pharmacy with linked Prescribing Pharmacists. • Legal documents have been published • Contractor declarations are approved by the ICB

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Are you ready to become a Prescribing Pharmacy?

- More details on Prescribing due out in October
  - ✓ Prescribing Specification
  - ✓ Prescribing Guidance
  - ✓ Updated Specs for Pharmacy First and Contraception
  - ✓ Guidance for five new clinical pathways
  - ✓ Prescription Management
- Drug Tariff and legal statutory instrument
- Declaration website (NHSBSA Opens)
- When ready, make a Declaration via NHSBSA

Prepare now, review the guidance, work with CPWY, and make a declaration when your pharmacy is ready

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Q&A

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Thank you for attending our Community Pharmacy Prescribing Event!
We would be really grateful if you would take some time to complete our feedback form.

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Join our CPWY Connect WhatsApp Group!
Scan the QR code & complete the form.

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