Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

NEWS DIGEST

5TH NOVEMBER 2026

Terms of Service Reminder: Workforce Survey Deadline!

Pharmacy owners are reminded completion of this survey is a mandatory requirement. The data will be collected via an online survey through the NHSBSA MYS Portal. The survey will close at **11.59pm on Saturday 14th November 2026**.

You can read more about the survey here, and access NHS England's FAQs here. If you need any help with the survey, please email NHSBSA: pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk.

Services Information

Prescribing Within the CPCF – Latest Update

All supporting documentation and guidance relating to the introduction of prescribing within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) has now been published and amendments to the Secretary of State Directions for Advanced Services have also been issued, establishing the legal framework for prescribing to begin – see CPE news story here.

We will shortly be issuing Bulletin 2 of our Independent Prescribing (IP) Series which will be sent directly to pharmacies that have completed our IP Survey and indicated that they either have an Independent Prescriber or intend to introduce prescribing within the CPCF within the next 12 months. Once published, this will also be made available on our IP webpage here.

NHS England Webinar – Monday 9th November 2026 - NHS England is holding a webinar on 9th November 2026 at 6:30-7:30pm for pharmacy owners and pharmacists interested in providing prescribing within the CPCF. Read more about the webinar and book your place here.

NHS-Funded Clinical Training for Pharmacists - A range of NHS-funded clinical training opportunities is available to support pharmacists in developing their clinical skills and delivering effective patient consultations. This table on the CPWY website lists the upcoming training sessions that have been brought to our attention. All sessions are delivered virtually and last no longer than one hour.

Updated Pharmacy First and Contraception Service Specifications

NHS England has published updated service specifications for Pharmacy First and the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS), incorporating the new prescribing element alongside a small number of other important changes.

Even if your pharmacy isn't planning to offer the prescribing element, it's important to review the updates, as some changes apply to all providers. CPE has highlighted the key changes, which you can read here.

The revised October 2026 specifications are available below:

- Pharmacy First Service Specification
- Pharmacy Contraception Service Specification

Pharmacies should familiarise themselves with the updated requirements and review whether any changes are needed to their standard operating procedures (SOPs), governance arrangements or day-to-day processes.

Pharmacy First – Where to Escalate NHS 111 Referrals

As we approach the winter period, traditionally one of the busiest times for NHS services, now is a good time to refresh the pharmacy team's understanding of the correct escalation process for NHS 111 referrals to Pharmacy First. This flowchart summarises the escalation options available to pharmacy teams.

Patients must not be redirected back to NHS 111 - Once an NHS 111 referral has been received, the pharmacist is responsible for managing the outcome of the Pharmacy First assessment. Patients must not be asked to contact NHS 111 again. Where further advice or escalation is needed, the pharmacist must use their clinical judgement to arrange the appropriate onward referral or signposting.

Action for pharmacy teams: Please review the flowchart and ensure the full version is readily accessible to staff, so the correct escalation route can be followed when needed. (Note – this website version excludes non-public telephone numbers. All Pharmacy First pharmacies have been emailed the full version, which includes these numbers).

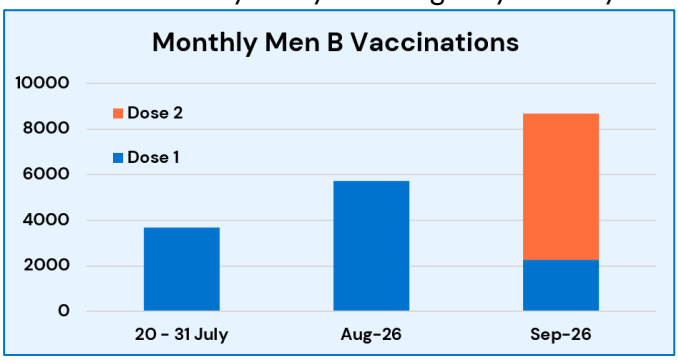
MenB Vaccinations: Thank You to Our Pharmacy Teams

18,000+ Men B Vaccinations Delivered!

A huge thank you to our pharmacy teams who have worked tirelessly over recent months to deliver MenB vaccinations to eligible students and help protect them against meningococcal disease.

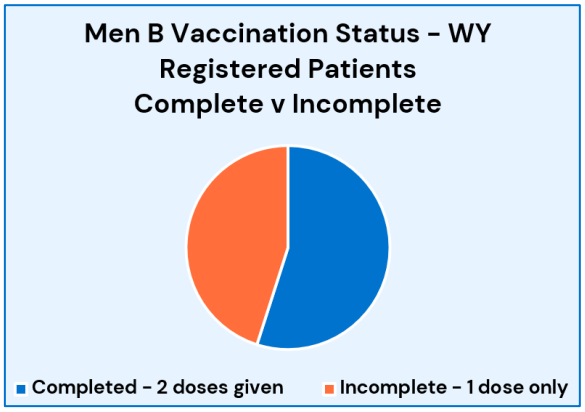
Although it is difficult to capture the full impact of our pharmacy teams' efforts, as vaccination figures are based on the recipient's GP registration rather than the location of vaccination, it is fantastic to see that **over 18,000 MenB vaccinations have been delivered to West Yorkshire students**. This figure may not fully reflect the contribution of West Yorkshire pharmacies, as students vaccinated locally may be registered with GPs outside the area.

We are aware that several pharmacy teams have supported pop-up vaccination clinics at universities across West Yorkshire, taking the service directly to students and helping make vaccination more accessible. Alongside this, teams have worked hard to raise awareness, answer questions and accommodate vaccinations within already busy working days. Every vaccination represents an important step in protecting students against a serious, potentially life-threatening infection that can cause devastating complications. **Thank you to everyone involved for your time, dedication and commitment.** Your efforts have made a real difference in helping protect our student population and ensuring more students have access to this important vaccination service.



Follow-Up and Key Dates - To ensure students receive the full benefit of vaccination, please actively recall students who have received their first dose and contact them to arrange their second dose. Don't leave it to students to remember to return. Proactive follow-up is essential to help them complete their vaccination course within the required timeframe and ensure they receive the intended protection.

Approximately 45% of WY students that have had their first dose of Men B have not yet had their second dose:



Key Vaccination Dates

- **Dose 1:** The first dose must be administered by 31st December 2026. **No first doses can be given under this service after this date.**
- **Dose 2:** Second doses can be administered at any pharmacy providing the service, provided at least 28 days have elapsed since the first dose. Second doses can be offered until 31st March 2027.

Funding Reminder - In addition to the £10.06 payment for each vaccination administered, pharmacies can earn a further £700 by meeting the following milestones:

- *£300 once at least one vaccination has been administered.*
- *£400 if 100 or more vaccinations have been administered by the end of March 2027.*

Thank you again for your continued efforts in delivering this important service. Please make recalling and booking students for their second dose a priority, helping ensure they complete their vaccination course and receive the intended protection.

Seasonal Vaccination Services

Flu vaccination demand soars – but what happens when first-line stock runs out? It's been reported nationally that following a strong demand for flu vaccinations this season, some pharmacy owners have already exhausted their supplies of IIVc (cell-cultured influenza vaccine), a first-line option for patients aged 18–49 in a clinical at-risk group, and CPE has been informed that no further stock is available to order from the manufacturer or wholesalers – see the CPE news story here.

What should pharmacies do? Under the NHS Seasonal Vaccination Services Specification, pharmacies must prioritise first-line vaccines wherever possible. If stock runs out, pharmacies should first check availability at nearby pharmacies and GP practices, directing patients to alternative providers or asking them to rebook where appropriate. The aim is that wherever possible, **all patients are offered a first-line vaccine**.

If no local pharmacies or general practices have stock of first-line vaccines available, second line vaccines can be considered when the recommended vaccines are unavailable to order from manufacturers or regular wholesalers or in exceptional circumstances where a patient may not return for another appointment.

Keep a record - Pharmacy owners considering second-line vaccines should document the steps taken to check local first-line vaccine availability before administering an alternative.

The priority remains clear: **offer first-line vaccines wherever possible, with second-line options used in line with NHS guidance.**

The recommended flu vaccines are set out in the Annual Flu Letter and the UKHSA's Flu vaccines for the 2026 to 2027 season poster provides a useful summary of them.

Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

Reminder: Ask Your Pharmacist Week – 2nd-9th November 2026

Don't forget, this week is Ask Your Pharmacist Week! The theme of this year's annual awareness campaign is 'Ask Your Pharmacist: NHS services close to home', with the aim to build public understanding of community pharmacy services, highlighting the skills and knowledge of community pharmacists and the wider pharmacy team.



Pharmacies and pharmacy stakeholders can access a suite of free-of-charge campaign materials here which can be used to promote the campaign.

Pharmacist ACTNow Wellbeing Campaign Returns

As community pharmacy teams face staff shortages, increasing demand, medicines supply issues, patient aggression and other pressures on a daily basis, CPE continues to work to raise awareness of these important issues.

Pharmacist Support's ACTNow Wellbeing Campaign, which is running until 15th November focuses on personal and workplace wellbeing, recognising the importance of looking after yourself and supporting colleagues in the workplace. ACTNow encourages individuals and teams to make time for wellbeing, consider others' needs, and take action.

The campaign is open to the whole pharmacy team. Sign up here to receive Pharmacist Support's digital newsletter to get free mental health and wellbeing support through the campaign.

Tell CPE How Ready you Feel for Winter!

Calling all pharmacy owners across West Yorkshire - please take part in Community Pharmacy England's latest sector poll here. CPE wants to know what impact the 2026/27 funding settlement has had on your costs and how ready you feel for the demands of winter.

⏰ **The deadline is 11.59pm on Monday 16th November!**

Freedom to Speak Up – Primary Care Feedback Needed

NHS England is reviewing the Freedom to Speak Up expectations of primary care following publication of The Future of Freedom to Speak Up and is seeking feedback from colleagues working across primary care. The review is intended to establish practical and proportionate expectations for speaking up arrangements, ensuring that concerns are listened to and responded to appropriately. Feedback will help ensure the expectations accurately reflect the realities and practicalities of working in primary care. Primary care colleagues can complete this short survey by Friday 13th November 2026.

For more information or if you have any questions email england.ftsu-enquiries@nhs.net.

Apprenticeship Funding Incentive Update and Support – Skills4Pharmacy

From 1st October 2026, additional government funding is available to help non-levy employers recruit apprentices aged 16-24. Eligible employers may be able to claim a £2,000 hiring grant, paid in two instalments through their training provider.

Skills4Pharmacy has advised that further funding may also be available, including additional payments for employing young apprentices and youth job opportunities. For further information please see the flyer here or contact Skills4Pharmacy at info@skills4group.co.uk or 0161 794 0528.

CPWY does not endorse any organisation or service mentioned. We are sharing this information for awareness only.

Training and Development

- ***CPWY Events**:*

  Details of upcoming events will be available soon.

- ***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 – Autumn 2026*

CPWY Connect – WhatsApp Group

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

