Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

NEWS DIGEST

26TH NOVEMBER 2026

We've got something special planned for our CPWY Connect community this festive season...

From Monday 7th December, we'll be bringing a little extra cheer to our CPWY Connect WhatsApp group, with opportunities to get involved each weekday up to 22nd December, and be in with a chance of winning a prize! 🎁



The CPWY Connect group is open to anyone working in a West Yorkshire community pharmacy. If you haven't joined yet, now's the perfect time! Sign up here and once verified, we'll add you to the group. More details coming soon... ✨

PQS 2026/27

Check your PQS Palliative Care Questionnaire Submission!

A new NHSBSA report is now available to help pharmacy owners check whether they have successfully submitted the palliative care questionnaire for the 2026/27 PQS. The report shows which pharmacies have submitted the questionnaire and will be updated weekly until 31st December 2026 deadline. However, pharmacy owners are also required to **retain their submission confirmation email** as evidence of completion.

Completion of the questionnaire is one of three gateway requirements and if pharmacy owners do not complete by the deadline, they will not be eligible for a PQS payment and will have any Aspiration payment claimed in July, recovered by the NHSBSA. See more information here.

Services Information

CPCF Services and Terms of Service – Upcoming Deadlines

Community Pharmacy England (CPE) maintains a dedicated webpage to help pharmacy teams stay up to date with key deadlines and requirements relating to the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) and national pharmacy services. Some important dates to be aware of over the coming weeks are:

30th Nov 2026	**COVID/Flu** - final deadline to register for COVID-19 and/or flu (adult and child) vaccination services.
1st Dec 2026	**Childhood Flu** – vaccination of primary and secondary school children not in a clinical risk group who missed the opportunity to be vaccinated in school can start. See here.
	Pharmacy First – updated caps come into force for December. Check the NHS BSA website page to see what your Pharmacy First cap is for the month.
10th Dec 2026	**Supervision** - pharmacy technicians can be authorised to undertake or supervise the preparation, assembly, dispensing and sale and supply of medicines, that would otherwise need to be performed by or under the supervision of a pharmacist. See here.
31st Dec 2026	**Men B** – deadline for administering FIRST doses.
	PQS – deadline for completing and submitting the Palliative & End of Life Care (PEoLC) questionnaire. This is a gateway criterion, which means if this deadline is missed, you will not be able to make a PQS declaration. See here.

Hypertension Case-Finding Service – The Five-Year Rule Does Not Apply to ABPM

Changes introduced to the service specification in early September aim to refocus the service on identifying patients with undiagnosed hypertension. Patients already receiving treatment for hypertension are no longer eligible for a clinic blood pressure check, and there is now a general exclusion for patients who have had their blood pressure checked within the last five years.

However, it is important to note that these restrictions do not apply to referrals for ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM). Eligible patients aged 40 years and over can continue to be signposted or referred by another healthcare provider for ABPM, even if they have an existing diagnosis of hypertension or have had their blood pressure checked within the last five years. We have highlighted some frequently asked questions below which have been taken from CPE's Hypertension Case-Finding Service FAQ page:



Q. Does the '5-year rule' for clinic checks also apply to signposting for ABPM from a general practice or other healthcare provider? *No. The '5-year rule' says patients cannot receive a clinic check at a pharmacy under the service if they have had their blood pressure measured in the last 5-years. That rule only applies to clinic checks; it does not apply to signposting/referrals for ABPM.*

Q. Can a patient aged 40 years or over be referred or signposted by a general practice or other healthcare provider for ABPM where the patient already has a diagnosis of hypertension? *Yes. For example, GPs may want a patient with hypertension to undergo ABPM so variation in their BP across the day can be assessed or the impact of a newly prescribed antihypertensive can be measured.*

CPE has produced a handy one-page guide which outlines service eligibility. See here.

Irregular Pulse: Reminder - If an irregular pulse is detected during a blood pressure measurement, a repeat measurement should be undertaken after a five-minute interval. If the pulse irregularity persists on repeat measurement, the findings must be communicated to the patient's GP practice on the same day. Where the patient has no previously diagnosed history of an irregular pulse, they should be advised to contact their GP practice on the same day.

Winter Services – Supporting Patients to Access the Right Care

With additional services now available across Leeds and Calderdale to support patients over the winter months, we would encourage pharmacy teams in these areas to familiarise themselves with the local pathways and opportunities for onward referral or signposting.

Leeds: Community Ambulatory Paediatric Service (CAPS) and Ambulatory Adult Respiratory Service (AARC) - Both services have reopened for the winter period and will remain available until **31st March 2027**, providing assessment and treatment for children and adults with acute respiratory symptoms.

Based at Harehills Community Centre, with an additional paediatric service at Windsor House Group Practice in Morley, these services offer same-day, face-to-face appointments following referral from a healthcare professional, supporting timely access to appropriate care closer to home.

Community pharmacists can refer directly into these services and should consider this option for eligible patients where the episode of care cannot be completed within the pharmacy, and the acuity and/or complexity of symptoms requires onward referral.

Further information, including eligibility criteria and booking arrangements, is available below:

- Community Ambulatory Paediatric Service (CAPS)
- Ambulatory Adult Respiratory Service (AARC)

Calderdale: Winter Hubs - Pennine GP Alliance is operating 10 Winter Hubs across Calderdale, providing additional same-day appointments every weekday:

- **Children's Hubs** – for children and young people up to the age of 17 who require same-day urgent care for new symptoms but do not require hospital treatment. Available until the end of May 2027.
- **Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs** – for patients of all ages with acute respiratory infections who require same-day assessment but do not require hospital treatment. Available until the end of April 2027.

Please note: unlike the Leeds services, community pharmacists cannot currently refer directly into the Calderdale Winter Hubs. Patients should contact their GP practice as usual to access a same-day appointment. However, being aware of these additional services can help pharmacy teams support patients in accessing appropriate care when onward signposting is required.

Please help raise awareness - pharmacies in Calderdale with digital screens in their waiting areas are encouraged to help promote these services by sharing the following short public awareness films:

- Same-Day Children's Hubs
- Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs

Updated Pharmacy First Service Specification – Important Changes for All Providers

As highlighted via a recent Digest, NHS England has updated the Pharmacy First service specification to support the introduction of prescribing. However, the revised specification also includes several wider changes and clarifications that **all Pharmacy First providers need to be aware of, regardless of whether they intend to provide prescribing.** The revised service specification can be downloaded here and all changes can be clearly seen.

Some key changes to note:

- *All consultations must be verbal (face-to-face or remote) and must be provided from the pharmacy premises where the referral was sent to, (except for DSP pharmacies who are not permitted to provide face-to-face consultations with patients present at the pharmacy premises). There may be occasions when a consultation does not need to take place at the pharmacy to which the referral was sent. For example, if the pharmacy does not have the required medicine in stock; the pharmacy is a DSP and the referral is for earache; or the pharmacy is a DSP and due to the nature of the clinical condition and the need to ensure the patient obtains the supply in a timely manner, the patient can be referred to another pharmacy of their choice.*
- *Requirements relating to face-to-face, remote and distance-selling pharmacy consultations have been clarified, including the use of video consultations.*
- *New requirements preventing pharmacy owners from generating, submitting or otherwise creating referrals on behalf of patients, except in very exceptional circumstances.*
- *Requirements relating to record keeping, access to patient records, information sharing, conflicts of interest and consultation outcomes have been strengthened and clarified.*
- *Monitoring and post-payment verification requirements have been expanded, including clearer expectations around evidence, verification, data quality and the recovery of payments where claims cannot be substantiated.*

Key message: Review, Reflect and Act – All Pharmacy First providers should read and review the updated service specification, assess their current practice against the revised requirements and make any necessary changes to ensure continued compliance.

ESPAUR Report Provides Insight into Antimicrobial Supply Following a Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway Consultation – The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) ESPAUR report 2025 to 2026: Extended summary shows that while NHS Pharmacy First consultations surged by 42% between April 2025 and March 2026, 16–57% of consultations did not result in an antimicrobial supply and overall antibiotic supply across the seven infection pathways fell by 1–5% compared to the previous year. An antibiotic-sparing medicine was supplied in 22% to 32% of consultations in 3 relevant infection pathways.

Read the CPE news story to find out more about the report which includes data on antibiotics supplied to patients following a Pharmacy First clinical pathway consultation.

Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

Toujeo Insulin: Important Pharmacy Supply Update

Sanofi has confirmed that there are currently **no stock issues** with either Toujeo presentation. Toujeo SoloStar is **subject to an allocation/quota system**. Pharmacies may therefore receive a **"quota exceeded"** message when ordering. This does not necessarily indicate a stock shortage. If this occurs:

- Please ensure Toujeo is being ordered through AAH or Phoenix.
- If a "quota exceeded" message is received, request a quota override for additional stock.
- If you are still unable to obtain stock, contact Sanofi Customer Services: GB-CustomerServices@sanofi.com | 0800 854 430 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) or Local Sanofi contact: Liz Dibbert, Network Manager, EP, UK & Ireland | 07725 497 579 | Elizabeth.dibbert@sanofi.com.

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.

