



COMMUNITY PHARMACY ARDEN GENERAL UPDATE 28th March 2024

Information is subject to change and is as accurate as we can ascertain at date published.
If your pharmacy is part of a larger organisation (CCA, AIMp), please consult with your HQ in relevant matters.

NHS Community Pharmacy Extended Care Service Tier 1, 2 and 3

The West Midlands Primary Care Team have now notified you of the discontinuation in part to the NHS Community Pharmacy Extended Care Service Tier 1, 2 and 3. The service was reviewed by the West Midlands Pharmacy Governance Group and it was concluded not to offer the service after 31 March 2024. This decision was made due to launch of the Pharmacy First Service which commenced on 31 January 2024, it was recognised that four of the clinical pathways from the extended care Tier 1,2 and 3 services, were to be incorporated and have been aligned to the new advanced pharmacy first services. Please read the letter on the following link for further details and explanation: [READ HERE](#)

Zero VAT rate for medicines supplied using a PGD

Last year the application of VAT to pharmacy services and medicines changed. See <https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/pharmacy-funding/funding-distribution/vat/> .

The change that does not appear to have been fully implemented relates to medicines and PGDs – at the bottom of that web page. Specifically:

HMRC subsequently announced that from 9th October 2023 to 31st March 2027, the VAT rate for supplies of medicines made to patients using a Patient Group Direction (PGD) would be set at the zero rate. [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vat-introducing-a-new-zero-rate-to-extend-the-scope-of-patient-group-directions>]

*This change **only applies** to PGD supplies where the patient is given the medicine to use; it **does not apply** where the medicine is administered to the patient, for example vaccination services, including the [flu vaccination service](#). We have been made aware that some PharmOutcomes invoices for PGD services provided to contractors are continuing to charge 5% or 20% VAT on medicines supplied as part of a PGD service. This is not correct. The current rate is zero. PharmOutcomes is not able to initiate the necessary changes – the changes must be requested by the commissioner/person holding the PharmOutcomes licence. The LPC have contacted all the relevant commissioners.*



Please take part in the 2024 Pressures Survey

Community Pharmacy England's third annual Pressures Survey is underway, and your contribution is crucial. We hope that local pharmacy business owners and staff members across the region will be able to take part, and we're keen for even more voices from across the sector to be heard.

The survey allows you to share your experiences on pressing issues such as medicines supply issues, workforce concerns, workload, stress levels, patient demand, and other impacts on your pharmacy. Every contribution is important in building up the strongest possible picture of the challenges you are facing. The more responses submitted, the better that Community Pharmacy England can measure the pressure the whole sector is under for use in negotiations, conversations with MPs, and the national media. Your responses will help push the Government and NHS to improve the situation. The survey is expected to take just 10-15 minutes of your time, and is open until **23.59 on Tuesday 2nd April**.

How to Participate

If you haven't already, please take a moment to respond via one of the two options below:

- [Pharmacy business owners/head office representatives survey](#) – **only one representative** from each pharmacy business should complete this survey.
- [Pharmacy team members survey](#)

To see the questions before completing the survey or for more information, please see Community Pharmacy England's [news story](#). The team at Community Pharmacy England has asked us to pass on their thanks for your continued support in completing these surveys, particularly at this very busy time.

Community Pharmacy NHS Lateral flow device (LFD) tests supply advanced service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments – Service Expansion

The NHS offers COVID-19 treatment to people with COVID-19 who are at risk of becoming seriously ill. From 1 April 2024, as a result of updated NICE guidance, the number of people estimated to be potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments through routine NHS access pathways will increase to around 5.3million. NICE recommendations have been updated, please click the following link for further details: [CLICK HERE](#)

The Flu Vaccination Service

The specification for The Flu Vaccination Service for 2024/25 has been published by NHS England:

[Flu vac: NHSE publishes 2024/25 service spec - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](#)



Supporting Colleagues and Patients During Ramadan

Information on how to support colleagues during Ramadan can be found [here](#). Also, you can find some videos aimed at supporting patients to use their medicines and promote health and wellbeing during Ramadan [here](#).

Otoscopies

Please remember that if you are a Bricks and Mortar pharmacy, then from **1st April 2024**, an otoscope **must** be available, and you must be able to offer **all** clinical pathways. You must also ensure the service is available throughout the pharmacy's full opening hours (i.e. core and supplementary).