



COMMUNITY PHARMACY ARDEN GENERAL UPDATE 5th MARCH 2026

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, IPA), please consult with your HO in relevant matters.

LOCAL/LPC NEWS

Reminder: Local Mandated Health Campaign - Only Order What You Need

The 'Only Order What You Need' campaign hopes to encourage people on repeat prescriptions to check what medicines they have at home before they order and to only order the medicines they need. The campaign runs throughout February and March 2026. Details and requirements can be found [here](#). This is a mandatory campaign – all Coventry and Warwickshire community pharmacies are required to participate.

Reporting

All pharmacies are required to collate the requested data using the tally chart provided and submit totals using the link below **on or before 10th April 2026**.

[CPCF Local Health Campaign 'Only Order What You Need'](#)

Any questions relating to this campaign should be directed to cwicb.mot@nhs.net

Ending prescribing of gluten-free foods in Coventry and Warwickshire

Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has announced the decision to end NHS prescribing of gluten-free foods for adults and children diagnosed with coeliac disease or dermatitis herpetiformis.

This change will take effect from 1st June 2026. A transition period will be in place until this date to support patients and allow time for clear communication and access to advice and resources. This proposal has been discussed with Local Medical Committees (LMCs).

Please find below a communication from the ICB that was sent to every pharmacy within our region.

[Letter-to-Community-Pharmacies-re-Changes-to-Gluten-Free-Foods-FINAL-Feb-26-1.pdf](#)

SWFT Community Adult Services - EPS



SWFT Community Adult Services have now started to implement electronic prescribing so Warwickshire community pharmacies will start to see these prescriptions coming in via EPS, rather than on paper FP10s.

They have 150 prescribers in the community adult services working across North and South Warwickshire and Rugby. The implementation plan for electronic prescribing will take from now until the end of May as they work through the following services:

- Urgent Community Response
- Heart failure specialist nursing
- Leg ulcer specialist nursing
- Specialist palliative care
- Diabetes nursing
- Bladder and bowel service
- Parkinson's nursing
- Dementia nursing
- Street outreach service
- Placed based team community nursing

REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

Joint 2026/27 service spec published for COVID-19 & Adult Flu Vacs, with fee uplifts from April 2026

Summary:

- New joint service specification for COVID-19 and adult Flu vaccinations published.
- Fees for both vaccinations uplifted, but additional fee for housebound patients removed.
- Pharmacy owners must use the National Booking Service for COVID-19 vaccinations, but this is still not a requirement for flu.
- Registration now a requirement for both services for the 2026/27 vaccination season.

Following discussions with Community Pharmacy England, NHS England has today published [a new service specification](#) that covers the provision of both seasonal COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations in community pharmacy during the 2026/27 season.

Pharmacy owners can offer both COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations, or just adult flu.

NHS England has also confirmed in a [system letter](#) an increase to service fees: adult flu rises from £9.58 to £10.06, COVID-19 vaccinations are £8.70 per vaccine administered, while the flu vaccination campaign is underway, and £10.06 outside of this. There will no longer be a £10 payment for COVID-19 vaccinations for housebound people.



[Read the full news story for further details, registration details and deadlines](#)

GPhC guidance on pharmacy change of ownership requirements

This is an important reminder for pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists that it is a legal requirement to notify the GPhC within 28 days of a pharmacy's change of ownership, by submitting a change of ownership notification form. If this does not happen within 28 days, GPhC has to remove the pharmacy from the register, which means the pharmacy would have to close until it has been restored onto the register.

GPhC has written to pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists to remind them of this requirement:

[Important guidance on pharmacy change of ownership requirements](#)

Please also ensure any Change of Ownership application is followed via the PSCE process outlined [here](#).

Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026 now open

Community Pharmacy England has launched its fifth annual Pharmacy Pressures Survey, and they are keen to hear from all pharmacy owners and staff. The responses received each year are invaluable and help CPE push for vital changes, using the latest evidence to strengthen our case and support the sector.

The survey is open until 16th March 2026 to allow plenty of time for colleagues across pharmacy to respond.

[Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026](#)

CPE Funding and Reimbursements Shorts

CPE's in-house Drug Tariff and regulatory experts have released a new video guide that clarifies how and when to claim for extra costs incurred when obtaining products for supply against NHS prescriptions. [Watch the video here](#)

Changes to the reporting of Temporary Suspensions

From 1 June 2026, the Manage Your Service (MYS) will be the only route to notify ICBs of temporary suspensions/closures.

This week, NHS England announced that it was giving advance notice of changes to the approved manner of [reporting temporary suspensions of service or likely temporary suspensions of service \(temporary closures\)](#) to ICBs. The changes will be made to the approved particulars for 1 June.

NHS England indicated that, currently, pharmacy owners can report via the Manage Your Service (MYS) platform or send an email notification to their ICB. However, from 1 June, MYS will be the only submission



method, and pharmacy owners must use it from that date. Once reported via MYS, pharmacy owners do not need to follow up with an email or further notification to their ICB.

The Terms of Service require NHS community pharmacy owners to have a [business continuity plan for temporary suspensions/closures](#) due to illness or other reasons beyond their control and to action the plan when necessary. One of the required actions in the event of a temporary suspension/closure is to notify your ICB. The MYS portal has been available to notify temporary suspensions/closures since September 2024. It can be updated with one or more temporary suspensions and remains editable for 7 days after submission. The submission can also be deleted if there is no subsequent suspension/closure.

More information on managing unplanned temporary suspensions (including resources to prepare for these) can be found on our [temporary suspensions/closures page](#).

Important Dates for 2026

Don't forget to check the CPE website for upcoming important dates [here](#).

Advance payment timetable for 2026

CPE has published an Advanced Payment Timetable for 2026, which you can find [here](#).

Latest Supply Issues: Shortages and SSPs

You can find all the latest supply notifications and SSPs [here](#).



[CPA Patient-facing Website and Facebook Page](#)

[Pharmacy Coventry & Warwickshire Website](#)

[Pharmacy Coventry and Warwickshire Facebook Page](#)

Finally... WhatsApp Groups Reminder to share the WhatsApp groups with others who work in community pharmacy within Coventry and Warwickshire.



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USEFUL LINKS:

[CPA Website](#)

[CPHW Website](#)

[CPE Newsletters](#)

[CPE Payment Timetable and Deadline Tracker](#)

[CPE CPCF Important Dates](#)

[Price Concessions](#)