



COMMUNITY PHARMACY ARDEN GENERAL UPDATE 7th May 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: Patient Nominations

We would like to remind all community pharmacies about the appropriate practice of patient nominations. Please remember that Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) nominations must be patient-driven, ensuring informed consent is obtained, documented, and never automatic. Inappropriate, coerced, or automatic nomination changes are considered unprofessional, violating patient choice.

Links to resources around patient nominations can be found below:

[LPC Nominations Guidance February 2026](#)

[CPE Nomination of Patients \(EPS\) Webpage](#)

[CPE EPS Nominations & Patient Choice Guidance](#)

[CPE Reporting Suspicious Changes Guidance](#)

NHS updates EPS nomination standards - [NHS England has updated its national standards on how pharmacy teams and IT system suppliers process nominations.](#)

The updated standards - [The updated NHS nomination standards](#)

What Services Can Pharmacy Teams Do?

Please see the following link confirming which team member can deliver which service currently: [26-04-21-Services-Your-Pharmacy-Team-Can-Do-UPDATED-for-VGDs-1.pdf](#). It is worth considering if some of your staff could be upskilled to take on more responsibility for the running of services in your Pharmacy.

Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2026

This programme supports Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians (PTPTs) to be employed and complete a two-year apprenticeship training programme within a community pharmacy setting. On successful completion of training and registration with the GPhC, pharmacy technicians will be well placed to support service delivery and wider healthcare priorities within community pharmacy. The funding offer includes a financial training contribution of £15,505 per PTPT, per year for the two-year training period.



The deadline for funding applications is Monday 18 May 2026 at midday. Application of Funding (AoF) requests must be submitted via the [online application form](#). The application window will open on Monday 27 April 2026 until Monday 18 May 2026, at midday. To apply for funding in the Midlands [click here](#).

National stakeholder engagement sessions will be held via MS Teams to provide further information on the programme, including the application process and how to access apprenticeship funding. Details of these sessions can be found in the [attached document](#). You only need to attend one session.

Guidance to support completion of an application, along with further programme information, is available on the HEE [website](#). Engagement session recordings and FAQs can be accessed on this [Sway link](#), and further information: [NHSE WT&E Midlands Pharmacy](#)

If you have any questions, please email england.wtepharmacy.mids@nhs.net with Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2026 in the subject field.

[CPE 2026 Regional roadshows](#)

Community Pharmacy England will host regional roadshows across the country in June and early July 2026, giving pharmacy owners and LPCs the chance to meet the Executive Leadership Team and Committee Members, share views, ask questions, and discuss key issues.

These evening events (7:30–9pm, with refreshments from 6:45pm) aim to gather input to shape future work, including priorities for the 2027/28 CPCF negotiations, while also providing updates on the 2026/27 outcomes. Attendees can take part in discussions, polling, and networking with peers.

Events are free but limited to pharmacy owners or their representatives on a first-come basis. If you cannot attend your local session, alternative arrangements may be possible. Ongoing engagement will also continue through polling and sector events.

West Midlands – [Tuesday 30th June 2026, Birmingham](#)

REGIONAL/ NATIONAL NEWS

[Medicines shortages leaflets and posters](#)

Please be reminded of the published leaflets and posters for patients, community pharmacies and general practices about what to do when faced with medicine supply issues. These resources can be found on the [Specialist Pharmacy Service](#) (SPS) website ([registration](#) with an NHS email is required).



The resources include a [poster](#) providing guidance to pharmacists and GPs on what to do when faced with a shortage of a medicine and where to find the most up to date management advice on national supply issues so that they can best support their patients. It is intended to be printed and displayed in staff-only areas within community pharmacies, GPs and other primary care sites.

The other resource is a [patient leaflet](#) to give patients an understanding of why medicines may be in short supply and where to get advice and support to address some of the concerns they may have when there is a shortage of their medicine. This leaflet is intended to be handed out to patients who do not receive the medicine(s) they are expecting because of a national supply issue. The leaflet is supplementary information and should not replace conversations between healthcare professionals and patients regarding medicine shortages.

These publications form part of the wider set of actions and improvements identified by the Government in its policy paper [Managing a robust and resilient supply of medicine](#) to help with tackling the issues around medicine shortages.

NHSBSA 'Hints & Tips' – Issue 63

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) produces a quarterly newsletter called “Hints & Tips”. The latest edition ([Issue 63](#)) contains some useful information and advice on:

- [New Drug Tariff Category H products](#)
- [April 2026 Drug Tariff changes](#)
- [Reimbursement price changes: January, February and March 2026](#)
- [Prescription endorsing: invoice prices](#)
- [Sorting your end of month batch submissions](#)
- [Help patients claim free NHS prescriptions correctly](#)
- [Active Serious Shortage Protocols](#)
- [Need support? Contact our Customer Contact Centre](#)

To view current and previous issues of Hints & Tips click [here](#).

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](#).



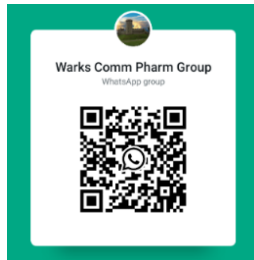
CPA Patient-facing Website and Facebook Page



[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](#)