



COMMUNITY PHARMACY ARDEN

GENERAL UPDATE 16th September 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.

MPs call for sustainable funding for local pharmacies

Community pharmacies received cross-party support in Parliament this week, with MPs highlighting the financial and operational pressures facing pharmacies across England.

A Westminster Hall debate, sponsored by Leicester East MP Shivani Raja, focused on pharmacy funding and the need for greater financial stability. MPs highlighted rising costs, medicines supply pressures and the increasing demands being placed on pharmacies.

There was also support for expanding Pharmacy First, improving integration with primary care and providing greater clarity around independent prescribing.

Responding for the Government, Minister Dame Diana Johnson acknowledged the financial pressures facing many community pharmacies and reiterated the Government's ambition to expand the role of pharmacy in community and preventive healthcare.

Engaging with local MPs on pharmacy funding



Community Pharmacy Arden has been continuing to engage with local MPs to raise awareness of the financial pressures facing community pharmacies and the challenges of delivering an expanding range of services.

As part of this work, Sir Jeremy Wright MP met with our Chief Officer, Conor Price, and recently visited a community pharmacy in his constituency in Kenilworth. The visit provided an opportunity for an open and positive discussion about the current pharmacy contract, including how pharmacies are funded and the increasing gap between the cost of providing NHS services and the funding received.

Discussions highlighted the pressures created by the current medicines reimbursement system, rising operating and employment costs, medicines shortages and the increasing number of prescriptions being dispensed



at a loss. The importance of ensuring pharmacies are appropriately funded to deliver the services expected of them was also raised.

There was positive discussion around the opportunities for community pharmacy to take on a greater role in supporting patients and delivering care closer to home. However, for pharmacies to make the most of these opportunities, they need sustainable funding and the capacity to employ the staff needed to deliver them.

We will continue to work with local MPs and other stakeholders to ensure the challenges facing community pharmacies are understood and that the sector has a sustainable future.

Pharmacy First – New Prescribing Pathways

NHS England and DHSC have announced five new prescribing pathways for Pharmacy First, launching this autumn:

- Acute otitis externa – adults 18+
- Seasonal allergic rhinitis – children aged 4–11
- Mild to moderate acne – young people
- Migraine – adults aged 18–64
- Mild skin/soft tissue infections and scabies

Pharmacy owners should note that more guidance and documentation related to the introduction of prescribing into the CPCF is still to be published by DHSC and NHS England. The currently available information and links to various documents can be found on the following webpage, alongside further information on our view on these developments: [Prescribing within the CPCF webpage](#)

Community Pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service 2026/27

The NHS flu vaccination service is now underway for 2026/27.

Key dates:

- **1 September 2026** – vaccination of eligible pregnant women can begin.
- **1 October 2026** – vaccination for other eligible groups begins.

Pharmacies are asked to ensure their teams are familiar with the service requirements and eligibility criteria, and are ready to offer vaccination to eligible patients.

REMINDER - Registration is Mandatory to Provide COVID and/or Adult Flu Vaccinations -

Pharmacy owners must use the NHSBSA [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#) to register to provide COVID and/or adult flu vaccinations. Registration to provide adult flu vaccinations is a new requirement this year. **Vaccinations given before registration will not be paid.**



Further information and resources:

[NHS England – Flu Vaccination Programme 2026/27](#)

[NHS England – Community Pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service Specification](#)

[NHS – Flu vaccine in pregnancy](#)

Please share this information with relevant members of your pharmacy team.

PQS: Palliative Care Questionnaire now open

Pharmacy owners can now complete the **Palliative and End of Life Care (PEoLC) questionnaire**, which is a **gateway requirement** for the **2026/27 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS)**. The questionnaire is available through the **NHSBSA MYS portal** and must be submitted **by 11.59pm on 31 December 2026**.

After submitting, owners will receive a **confirmation email** as proof of successful completion, and this must be **kept as evidence** if required later.

Because the PEoLC questionnaire is **one of three mandatory gateway requirements**, failing to submit it by the deadline means the pharmacy will **not be eligible for any PQS payment**, even if all other PQS domain work has been completed: [Learn more about the questionnaire](#)

NHS England Announces Funding Uplifts for Pharmacy Trainees

NHS England has announced funding uplifts for both foundation trainee pharmacists and trainee pharmacy technicians. Funding has increased to £28,196 per foundation trainee pharmacist and £15,769 per trainee pharmacy technician. The higher rates are being applied automatically to eligible sites, including backdated payments for current trainees and apprentices. Read more on the Community Pharmacy England website [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](#).

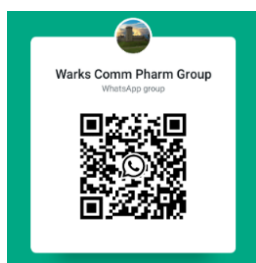


[CPA Patient-facing Website and Facebook Page](#)

[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](#)