

**Community
Pharmacy
Leicestershire
& Rutland**

REGIONAL & LOCAL NEWS



Navigating the Numbers. Securing the Future

Strengthening Financial Resilience in Community Pharmacy

Overview

A community pharmacy event focused on financial sustainability, aimed at supporting community pharmacy contractors and teams to strengthen financial acumen and address common financial pitfalls in the current challenging landscape.



Date
Sunday 26th April



Time
9:00am–1:00pm



Location
Leicester Marriott Hotel
Grove Park, Smith Way, LE19 1SW

Navigating the Numbers. Securing the Future

Community Pharmacy Leicestershire & Rutland is pleased to invite contractors and pharmacy teams to an essential upcoming event focused on **financial sustainability and resilience** in community pharmacy.

Navigating the Numbers. Securing the Future will provide practical insights to help pharmacy businesses strengthen financial acumen, understand key pressures in the current landscape, and avoid common financial pitfalls. This session is designed to support pharmacies in planning ahead with confidence and safeguarding long-term viability.



Date: Sunday 26th April



Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm




Location: Leicester Marriott Hotel, Grove Park, Smith Way, LE19 1SW

Whether you are a contractor, manager, or part of the wider pharmacy leadership team, this is a valuable opportunity to build knowledge, share learning, and ensure your business is prepared for the future.

More details and registration information coming soon.

Community Pharmacy: A Unified Partner in Neighbourhood Care
 Trusted, accessible and embedded in local communities. Working together to provide earlier support, better outcomes and joined up care



Why this matters

Community pharmacy is a core partner in the Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) and a trusted local community asset. Aligned with INT priorities, community pharmacies support:

- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Early intervention
- ✓ Reducing health inequalities
- ✓ Embedded where people live, work and seek everyday advice

The Ask for INTs

- ✓ Include us as a core partner
- ✓ Create communication & escalation routes
- ✓ Use pharmacy insight to inform your plans



<p>1. The local lighthouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly accessible: long opening hours, no appointment needed, frequent contact, trusted relationships • Often the first place people turn to when something feels wrong • Able to spot early warning signs of deterioration or unmet need • Escalate concerns and signpost appropriately across the neighbourhood system • Supporting proactive, not reactive, care 	<p>2. Local intelligence, trusted relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know our patients and families • Everyday, non-medical conversations reveal important insights • Early awareness of issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Medication adherence challenges □ Social isolation, stress or declining function □ Changes in health behaviours • Intelligence can be shared (appropriately) to support joined-up care planning and targeting of resources 	<p>3. Advice, education and connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing clear, accessible health advice and education • Supporting self-care and confidence to manage conditions • Connecting people to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ GP and wider primary care □ Social prescribing and voluntary sector services □ Local wellbeing, prevention and support offers • A connector between patients & wider system, strengthening resilience
<p>4. Prevention at scale, close to home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, established prevention offer including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Vaccination services □ Hypertension case-finding □ Health promotion and self care / lifestyle advice • Opportunistically reaches people who may not routinely access other services • Reducing health inequalities through local, trusted access • Supporting neighbourhood prevention priorities – keeping people well 	<p>5. Clinical expertise in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering safe, effective patient-centred care • Highly trained clinicians embedded in local communities • Delivery of services such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ New Medicine Service (NMS) □ Hypertension case-finding □ Pharmacy First □ Screening & medicines optimisation • Improving medicines safety, outcomes, and patient understanding • Reducing pressure on other parts of the system 	<p>6. A willing and engaged partner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community pharmacy wants to do more as part of the INT • Ready to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Share insight and data where appropriate □ Co-design pathways with partners and patients □ Align our activity to neighbourhood priorities • Valuing every voice: patients, carers, and professionals with a focus on flexible solutions

One system, one team, one shared purpose

Local Neighbourhood Health Centre Announced for Hinckley

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) is pleased to welcome this national announcement that Hinckley Health Centre has been confirmed as one of the first 27 neighbourhood health centres to be launched across England, helping to bring more integrated care closer to people's homes.

The neighbourhood health centres will allow patients to access a wide range of healthcare services from these centres – all under one roof and close to their homes – including essential treatment, GP and pharmacy services.

Over time, the centres will also include comprehensive services such as loan counseling, employment and family support, and other voluntary sector support and will be open 12 hours a day, six days a week.

The 27 centres are planned to open by 2027 and are the first of 50 neighbourhood health centres backed by a total investment of £200 million to upgrade existing buildings. In all, the government has pledged to open 250 by 2036, of which the first 120 will open by 2030.

Call to action

April 2026
**COMMUNITY PHARMACY
DEADLINE TRACKER**

To help keep LLR community pharmacy teams on track with monthly tasks, quality payments and to meet local and national deadlines. View the latest monthly Community Pharmacy Deadline Tracker.

[READ MORE](#)



Early Information on upcoming LLR ICB Medicines Formulary alignment work programs

We would like to advise you of a medicine Formulary alignment work programme which we anticipate will be implemented across GP practices in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) ICB within the next 3 months.

We are sharing this information at this early stage as a courtesy to support community pharmacy contractors in planning ahead, particularly in relation to stock management and to help ensure continuity of care for patients who may be affected by the upcoming changes. This forms part of our due diligence and our commitment to working collaboratively with community pharmacy.

The proposed changes will be aligned with the LLR Formulary and LLR APC guidelines, and are expected to include the following:

- Anticoagulation: Generic apixaban and generic rivaroxaban will become the first-choice anticoagulants for patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation



Labeling Correction for all TRUE METRIX brand of Blood Glucose Monitoring Systems

Trividia Health, Inc. (“Trividia” or “we”), the manufacturer of TRUE METRIX branded blood glucose monitoring systems, has initiated a labeling correction for TRUE METRIX, TRUE METRIX AIR, and TRUE METRIX GO Blood Glucose Monitoring Systems (collectively, the “Products”). This labeling correction impacts the Owner’s Booklets and System Instructions for Use included with the meter at purchase and the online labeling located on the company’s website

(NVAF) where clinically appropriate.

- Edoxaban will no longer be considered first line for this indication.

(www.trividiahealth.co.uk). The meter, test strips, and control solution are not impacted. The Products may continue to be used and sold. This correction does not require removal of the Products from where they are used or sold.

Call to action

ONLINE CPD SESSION
15TH APRIL 2026
7.30PM - 8.30PM

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEEDLE & SYRINGE PROGRAMME (NSP)

A free CPD event for community pharmacies in LLR focusing on the Needle Syringe Programme - with guest speaker from Exchange Supplies.

Register for the session by scanning the QR code or visiting our eventbrite page: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/turning-point-leicester-121094998582

REGISTER NOW

Overview of the session:

- Harm Reduction and NSP
- The Importance of Pharmacy NSP
- What's in your NSP packs and why
- Drug Preparation and Associated Risks

TURNING POINT
Community Pharmacy
Leicestershire & Rutland
EXCHANGE SUPPLIES

Reminder!

Turning Point

Join us for a free CPD event for community pharmacies in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) focusing on the Needle & Syringe Programme (NSP).

This session will provide practical insight into harm reduction and the important role community pharmacies play in supporting people who use drug services.

Session Overview

- Harm Reduction and NSP
- The Importance of Pharmacy NSP
- What's in your NSP packs and why
- Drug preparation and associated risks

REGISTER HERE

ICB approves next steps for maternity services in Melton

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) has today approved the relocation of birth services from St Mary's Birth Centre in Melton Mowbray to the midwife-led unit at Leicester General Hospital (LGH), in line with the original 2021 decision on maternity services.

The decision follows analysis of safety, staffing, activity and equality considerations, and engagement with women, families, midwives and students affected by the temporary pause introduced in July 2025.

Antenatal and postnatal clinics, home visiting and infant-feeding support in Melton will continue. Families will still be able to choose between midwife-led units at Leicester General Hospital and Leicester Royal Infirmary, consultant-led care, or the Home Birth Team.

St Mary's provided services to women from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland but has seen very low birth numbers for several years, averaging one to two per week. National guidance is clear that standalone midwife-led units require consistent activity to maintain clinical skills and operate safely. Falling activity, alongside staffing pressures and high levels of temporary cover, meant the service could no longer be safely sustained. The ICB and UHL will now work together on a managed transition, including support for staff and clear communication with families

Call to action

National News



Meningitis B outbreak: Antibiotic prophylaxis prescription fees

NHSE has confirmed that use of the 'FS' endorsement to enable free supply has been extended to NHS prescriptions for oral Ciprofloxacin in response to the Meningitis B outbreak.

As there is currently no functionality in GP clinical systems to support free supply for this indication, NHSE is advising GPs to issue paper FP10 forms for oral Ciprofloxacin endorsed 'FS' with the prescriber's initials or signature annotated alongside the item. However, if an electronic prescription is issued with 'FS' marked against the item, this should also be treated as a free-of-charge item and processed accordingly.

The prescription charge waiver only applies to FS-endorsed oral Ciprofloxacin prescriptions **dispensed and collected between 5th March to 21st April 2026**. This may be subject to change as the situation evolves.

Pharmacies may be asked to provide a FP57 refund form or till receipt if a patient has already paid for their prescription. **All refund requests will be managed by the NHSBSA.**

[READ MORE](#)



New!

Income Support and Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance exemptions to end from April 2026

Income Support and Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will be abolished from **1 April 2026**, with a two-week run-on period allowing prescription charge exemptions to be claimed until **14 April 2026**. From **15 April 2026**, these will no longer be valid exemption categories, although prescriptions dispensed on or before 14 April will still be treated as exempt.

Patients may instead qualify via **Universal Credit** (subject to eligibility criteria) or other exemption categories, and pharmacy teams are encouraged to use **RTEC** or direct patients to the NHSBSA checker to confirm entitlement.

[Call to action](#)



Meningitis B outbreak: Antibiotic prophylaxis prescription fees

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Annual flu letter publication



C-19 vac PGD publication

NHS England has now authorised and published the **Patient Group Direction (PGD)** for the Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination campaign. A supporting site readiness guide has also been

to the Meningitis B outbreak.

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[Call to action](#)

[Call to action](#)

[Access PGD HERE](#)



**Community Pharmacy
Leicestershire & Rutland
(CPL&R)**

Formerly known as the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC)

admin@leics-lpc.co.uk

You received this email because you are registered with LPC

[Unsubscribe here](#)

The national flu vaccination programme letter has now been published ,

To note:

- There are no changes to eligible groups;
- As per the 2025/26 season, pharmacies will only be able to vaccinate pregnant women from 1st September 2026; vaccination of other adult cohorts will start from 1st October 2026;
- There are two changes to the recommended vaccines that pharmacy owners will need to consider when finalising their orders; and
- There is a reinforcement of the circumstances when the egg-based vaccine, IIVe, can be used.

released for providers planning to take part.

The current legislation enabling **National Protocols** will end on **31st March 2026**. Subject to Parliamentary approval, a new legal framework – the **Vaccine Group Direction (VGD)** – is expected to be introduced, allowing both registered and suitably trained non-registered staff to continue supporting vaccine delivery. The COVID-19 VGD is anticipated to be published on **1st April 2026**.

Key dates:

- **Bookings open:** 7th April – 29th June 2026 (via National Booking Service and 119)
- **Vaccination period:** 13th April – 30th June 2026

Pharmacies intending to participate should ensure they are familiar with the PGD and upcoming changes to the legal framework to support safe and compliant service delivery.

