



1 February 2024

**The latest news and updates from NHS England for those working in Primary Care.**

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## Primary care

### Launch of NHS Pharmacy First advanced service

[Yesterday \(31 January 2024\), the NHS Pharmacy First advanced service launched](#), enabling community pharmacists to complete episodes of care for patients for seven common conditions, without the need for the patient to visit their general practice. The service builds on the previous Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) by enabling community pharmacies to manage patients for seven common conditions, following specific clinical pathways. Thank you to all pharmacies who have signed up.

[FAQs about the service](#) and [clinical pathway explainer videos](#) can be accessed via Community Pharmacy England. [More information for community pharmacy, general practice and ICBs is available in this letter published on 31 January 2024.](#)

[Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, David Webb, has recorded a message for the profession](#), thanking more than 10,000 pharmacies who have registered to deliver the service to date.

General practice staff should continue to refer using the same processes as for CPCS. For the

first two to four weeks, consultation information will be received via NHS Mail, as per usual practice. By the end of February, systems will have been updated so that the information can be reviewed by GP practices in the clinical system and added to the patient record with one click of a button.

### **MMR vaccination update**

Due to [rising measles cases in the West Midlands and London](#), NHS England has launched a [catch-up campaign to increase MMR vaccination coverage, particularly in low uptake areas](#). The public is advised to check their or their child's vaccination status. This can be via the Red Book or the NHS app (or their GP practice).

To support this, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has released [easy-read materials on measles symptoms and actions](#) and a [slide set for primary care](#). [MMR materials can be downloaded and ordered for free on the health publications website](#).

From February to March 2024, national MMR call and recall reminders will be sent to unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals aged 6-11 years across England, and 6-25 years in specific regions. These reminders will prompt patients to check their MMR immunisation status and, if vaccination is required, to contact general practice and in some areas local school age immunisation providers for vaccination.

### **Digital prescriptions in the NHS App**

As of 30 January 2024, patients in England can use the NHS App to view all their prescription details, order repeat prescriptions, and generate a barcode that can be shown to a pharmacy for collection without a paper prescription from their GP. This will positively impact on general practice workload as each repeat prescription ordered electronically saves GP practices three minutes of time, with those ordered using the app expected to save the equivalent of 1.85 million hours in 2024.

[Promotional materials are available to encourage patients to use this new NHS App feature](#), along with the current '[order a repeat prescription](#)' service. Learn more about [digital prescriptions in the NHS App](#). Contact the team at [digitalmedicines@nhs.net](mailto:digitalmedicines@nhs.net) with any questions.

## **Community pharmacy**

### **Training: Get ahead for Pharmacy First**

[Community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can access a range of funded, flexible training to expand their clinical skills and improve patient care](#). Courses include:

- Clinical examination training skills
- Independent prescribing
- Pharmacy technicians: advancing your role
- Education supervisor training for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

## General practice

### Guidance: GP direct access to diagnostic testing for respiratory and heart conditions

[Guidance has been published to enhance GP direct access to tests for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease \(COPD\), asthma, and heart failure](#). Supporting the NHS' winter initiatives and the Long Term Plan ambitions, this guidance supports systems to build the capacity and capability needed for spirometry, FeNO and NT-proBNP tests to achieve quicker diagnoses for patients.

### Giving patients online access to new GP health record entries

The digital transformation programme for online prospective record access completes on 31 March. Direct practice support is now being taken forward by local commissioners which have devolved responsibility for GP contract management and enforcement. 83% of GP practices now offer full online prospective record access by default.

The NHS England practice support email address ([england.gprecordaccess@nhs.net](mailto:england.gprecordaccess@nhs.net)) will discontinue - please direct any enquiries to local commissioners. Please note [information, resources, and guidance will continue to be available on the website](#), but the [FutureNHS](#) workspace is no longer being updated or monitored.

## Dentistry

### Dentistry and oral health update – January 2024 edition

The [latest dentistry and oral health update](#) published on 30 January features [new communications resources to support ICBs and practices to promote dental recall intervals and skill mix](#), a dental framework to support practices in identifying hazards and risks in relation to existing and emerging pathogens, and more.

## Get involved

### Improving appointments on the NHS App

The NHS App team are starting a discovery on how to improve the appointments booking and management experience for both patients and practices. To [have a say and shape the future solution, please share feedback in this online survey](#) by Friday 16 February.

### Link Worker Day 2024 awards – nominations open

The #LinkWorkerDay24 awards celebrate the impactful contributions made by social prescribing link workers and those who support them in transforming healthcare through social prescribing. [Nominations are open until 6 February](#).

## Training and development

### National Care Navigation training available until March 2024

[Practices are encouraged to book one member of their team to complete care navigation training.](#)

Thousands of primary care colleagues have taken up this free national offer, equipping learners to effectively communicate with patients and the multi-disciplinary team.

Training is accredited with foundation and advanced modules available. A new online collaborative platform supports learners and their managers to access resources and to connect with peers. **Book before the end of March 2024.**

Email [carenavigationtraining@england.nhs.uk](mailto:carenavigationtraining@england.nhs.uk) with any questions. [Care navigation training FAQs and promotional materials can be accessed here.](#)

### Funding for nursing associates

Trainee nursing associate (TNA) places are available to staff in general practice and primary care networks. Financial support includes £8,160 employer grant per TNA and Apprenticeship levy funding up to £15,000. Send expressions of interest to [england.nationalnursingteam@nhs.net](mailto:england.nationalnursingteam@nhs.net).

### NHS staff encouraged to complete Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training

Senior leaders across health and care continue to champion and voice their support for the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism. Recent [support has come from Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer at NHS England](#), who has completed Oliver's Training with the NHS England Board. She strongly encourages everyone in the NHS to complete the training to ensure that more autistic people and people with a learning disability can live healthy, happy lives. [Visit Oliver's Training to find out more.](#)

The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training is the government's recommended training to meet the Health and Care Act 2022 statutory training requirement and is a key ambition in the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

## Upcoming webinars and events

- Various dates. [NHS pension scheme webinar series](#)
- 2 February, 1pm – 2pm. [GPN national update: monthly webinar](#)
- 6 February 2024, 12.30pm – 1.45pm. [General practice telephony - problem solving and support session](#)
- 21 February, 12pm – 1pm. [Register with a GP surgery service – February update webinar](#)
- 21 February, 7pm. [The future of primary care in conversation with Dr Gillian Orrow](#)
- 29 February 2024, 12:30pm – 1:30pm. [Embedding improvement tools in daily practice for sustainable change: the how's and why's](#)
- 20 March 2024, 12:30pm – 1:30pm. [Measurement for improvement: It's easier than you think](#)

## Catch up

Missed a recent national webinar? You can view slides and recordings below:

- [General Practice webinars](#)
- [Primary Care Network webinars](#)
- [Recovering Access to Primary Care webinars](#)

## Download patient-facing materials

- [The general practice team](#)
- [General practice access routes](#)
- [NHS dental practice recall and skill mix](#)
- [NHS staff respect](#)
- [NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service](#)

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