



29 February 2024

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

[Primary Care Hub >](#)

[Confidential coaching >](#)

[Public campaigns >](#)

## General Practice

### GP contract 2024-25

[Yesterday \(28 February\), NHS England cascaded a letter about arrangements for the GP contract in 2024-25.](#)

Over the last year, NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care have listened to the views of the profession and patients and have worked hard to introduce simpler and more flexible arrangements, where possible, which will help practices free up time and improve patient access and experience.

In response to this feedback, from April there will be a focus on cutting bureaucracy, helping practices with cash flow and increasing financial flexibilities, giving primary care networks (PCNs) more staffing flexibility, supporting practices and PCNs improve outcomes by simplifying the PCN direct enhanced service (DES) requirements, and continuing to improve patient experience of access.

NHS England will now begin the process of implementing the 2024/25 contract changes with detailed guidance and further information to be published in the coming weeks.

Lastly a reminder that views are being sought on the [role of incentives schemes in general practice](#) for future years and the consultation remains open until 7 March.

### **Have your say on standardisation of encounter activity in general practice**

The Professional Records Standards Body (PRSB) is working with NHS England to make it easier to accurately record encounter activity in patient records. This will help improve data quality, local planning and drive better outcomes. The project aims to get consensus on a set of terms for consultation modes and care related activities, which can then be built into GP IT systems.

[Practices are invited to share their thoughts on the proposed terms for consultation modes and care related activity types, and ideas on implementation by 8 March.](#)

## **Primary Care**

### **New: Spring 2024 COVID-19 vaccination campaign**

[A letter has been published setting out further information on preparing for a successful Spring 2024 COVID-19 vaccination campaign.](#)

The following cohorts have now been announced and authorised for vaccination:

- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in the [Green book, chapter 14a: tables 3 and 4](#)). This includes those who turn 75 years old by 30 June 24.

Visits to older adult care homes and eligible housebound patients should begin on 15 April. For all other eligible cohorts, vaccinations should start by 22 April and end on 30 June.

### **TV campaign to encourage blood pressure checks in community pharmacy**

Primary care teams are encouraged to support a new campaign to help detect the estimated 4.2 million people in England with undiagnosed hypertension [using free resources on the Campaign Resource Centre website including printed pharmacy toolkits, social media assets, digital screens and a communications toolkit.](#)

High blood pressure (hypertension) is the single biggest treatable risk factor for cardiovascular disease including heart attacks, strokes and dementia. However high blood pressure usually has no symptoms, which is why from 11 March, a TV campaign will encourage those aged 40 and over, to get a free blood pressure check [at the nearest participating pharmacy.](#)

### **NHS e-Referral Service browser address change**

From 12 April, users who continue to access the NHS e-Referral Service (e-Rs) using the legacy URL will be directed to a new page that will require them to select an option to access e-RS on the new URL (<https://ers.nhs.uk>).

Users should update and replace the legacy URL with the new URL in favourites/ shortcuts in line with the online [guidance](#).

### **Reducing antibiotic use in primary care**

[The latest research on antibiotic stewardship, and safe and effective prescribing for those working in primary care is now available in from the National Institute for Health and Care Research.](#)

### **Sexual assault and sexual abuse information for people seeking asylum**

A new information booklet for asylum seekers, dealing with the subject of sexual assault or abuse, is now available.

It provides important information from the NHS on legal rights and how to access help for past or current sexual abuse, or assault.

[The booklet is available in Arabic, Albanian, English, Farsi, Kurdish and Pashto and copies can be found on the Migrant Help website.](#)

## **Community Pharmacy**

### **Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023-24 claims**

Community pharmacy contractors who want to claim a payment for the [Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023-24](#) are reminded that they need to make a declaration by 23:59 on 1 March via the MYS portal.

### **England Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme 2025-26 course provision**

[All Foundation Trainee Pharmacists commencing training in 2025 will have access to a core training offer provided by NHS England, focusing on supporting delivery of the learning outcomes in practice.](#)

The full specification is still being developed but will include an induction day to orientate trainees to the programme, communities of practice, online learning materials and first aid training.

## **Training and development**

### **NHS funded training for Pharmacy First**

[Training to support Pharmacy First is available](#) to develop new skills, support peer development and expand clinical knowledge including:

- Clinical examination skills and independent prescribing for community pharmacists.
- Advancing your role for community pharmacy technicians
- Educational supervisor training for community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

### Research career development opportunities in primary care

Applications are open for the [NIHR In-Practice Fellowship \(IPF\)](#), to develop research skills and experience. For 2024, funding is also available to health and care professionals working in primary care, together with GPs and dentists who are already eligible. IPF funding is for two years or part-time, over 30 or 40 months. Apply by 3 April.

## Upcoming webinars and events

- February – March. [Diabetes lunch and learn webinars](#)
- 1 March, 1pm – 2pm. [GPN national monthly webinar update](#)
- 5 - 27 March 12.30pm-2pm. [Demand and capacity \(four webinar series\)](#)
- 7 March, 12.30pm -1.45pm. [NHS App – Problem solving and support session](#)
- 12 March, 12.30pm – 2pm. [Care Navigation I: Using Quality Improvement to embed care navigation in general practice](#)
- 12 March, 2pm – 3pm. [Race Equality Foundation webinar. Improving outcomes: encouraging physical health checks for Black African and Caribbean people with Severe Mental Illness](#)
- 13 March, 12.30pm – 2pm. [Improving the online journey – creating websites that work](#)
- 20 March 2024, 12:30pm – 1:30pm. [Measurement for improvement: It's easier than you think](#)
- 20 March, 12.30pm-2pm. [Safe, reliable processes III](#)
- 12 - 13 June. [NHS ConfedExpo 2024](#)

## 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](#)

[Primary Care pages](#)

[COVID-19 advice](#)

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