



This bulletin contains information about the following topics:

 Page

1. Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice Pilot 2

1. August Bank Holiday Pharmacy Opening Times 2
2. Changes in ODS code and implications for ETP 2
3. New Controlled Drug Accountable Officer 3
4. Safe dispensing of Warfarin (East & North Herts Trust) 3
5. National Pharmacy Flu Vaccine Service 4
6. Christmas and New Year opening 2015/16 4
7. Royal Pharmaceutical Society launches Patient Engagement Hub 5
8. Stoptober 5
9. Goodbye to Jacki Collett 5

 Primary Care Pharmacy Team Contact Details 6



**1. Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice Pilot**

During July, Primary Care Commissioning launched their Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice Pilot

It is the first in a number of pilots testing innovative workforce models designed to support general practice as part of the GP Workforce 10 Point Plan

 <http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care-comm/gp-action-plan/>

Their intention is to invest at least £15 million over the next three years to test out this new patient-facing role in which clinical pharmacists have extended responsibility over and above many current ways of working.

Supported by Health Education England, The Royal College of General Practitioners, British Medical Association’s GP Committee and Royal Pharmaceutical Society, it builds on the experiences of general practices that already have clinical pharmacists in patient facing roles, in some cases as partners. The pilot will be evaluated so that success and learning is identified and reported.

You can find the press release here: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/07/07/pharm-supp-gp-surgeries/>



 **2. August Bank Holiday Pharmacy Opening Times**

Information regarding the pharmacies open on August Bank Holiday Monday (31 August 2015) has been sent to all pharmacies within locality areas. Please display this information so your customers are aware of how to access pharmaceutical services on the bank holiday. The information is also available on NHS England website by following the link below:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/our-work/pharm-open/>



 **3. Changes in ODS code and implications for EPS**

It has come to our attention that there are implications for EPS messages when a change of pharmacy ownership results in a change in ODS code. Until the pharmacy computer system supplier has changed the ODS code on the pharmacy computer system, any ETP messages submitted to NHSBSA will be allocated to the previous ODS code and any payments will be made to the previous owner. It will be for the old owner and the new owner to discuss how best to resolve the issue.

NHSBSA recommends that pharmacies, whose ODS code has changed, should not submit EPS messages until the new code has been updated on their computer system.

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 **4. New Controlled Drug Accountable Officer**

Bhavisha Pattani has been appointed as the Controlled Drug Accountable Officer (CDAO) for NHS England Midlands and East (Central Midlands).

She will be working closely with the 14 Clinical Commissioning Groups across Central Midlands to identify the most practical arrangements for maintaining the invaluable work that has already been done as well as the local knowledge and experience and on-going quality improvement in the use and monitoring of controlled drugs.

There will continue to be four local intelligence networks across Central Midlands, covering Nene, Corby & Milton Keynes CCGs, Bedfordshire, Luton, Herts Valleys and East & North Hertfordshire CCGs, Leicestershire CCGs and the fourth in Lincolnshire.

There has been a new email address established for the reporting of all CD incidents and concerns as well as any other confidential information which needs to be sent by NHS.net mail. The most secure way to email information is to send it from one NHS.net address to another. Our address is England.centralmidlands-cd@nhs.net , or please telephone 0113 824 9614.

Alternatively, you can contact Stacey Golding (Senior Pharmaceutical Adviser (Governance)) on Stacey.golding@nhs.net - 01707 369685.

Please also use the details above to arrange for an authorised witness for the destruction of expired Schedule 2 controlled drugs.

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1. **Safe dispensing of warfarin (E&N Herts NHS Trust)**

A pre-printed INR request form has now replaced the yellow book in East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust following a transformation of Pathology Services. This will reflect the

* last 4 INR results,
* current warfarin dose
* next test date

Please click here for [NPSA advice](http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59814)

Pharmacists who dispense repeat prescriptions for warfarin must review the patient-held record, which includes the date of the last clinic appointment, the latest INR test result and current dose, and confirm this information with the patient, as recommended by the NPSA.

The NPSA also recommends that prescribing and dispensing software should include functionality to enable the date of the last clinic appointment, the latest INR test result and current dose to be recorded when this information is being checked prior to issuing or dispensing a repeat prescription for an oral anticoagulant.

If you have any queries please contact the Anticoagulant Service.



 **6. National pharmacy flu vaccination service**

The new national community pharmacy flu vaccination service will allow community pharmacies to offer NHS flu vaccinations to adult patients aged 18 and over at the time of vaccination, who are defined as at risk in the Annual Flu letter (which includes patients aged 65 years old and over).

A service specification and guidance for flu vaccinations are being developed and it is expected that these to be published in September.

You can find out more about the service and how it will work in community pharmacies at: [**psnc.org.uk/flu**](http://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d7326f7a8d&e=7f601b8b13)



 **7. Christmas and New Year Opening 2015/16**

Please be aware that NHS England’s stance in regard to opening on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve will be the same as last year, i.e. that there will be no agreement to any changes to pharmacies core contracted hours, however, if the appropriate 90-day notification is received in relation to changes to supplementary hours then the pharmacy may close.

**BOXING DAY - SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2015.** This year Boxing Day (26th December) falls on a Saturday and this means the Boxing Day Bank Holiday will be on Monday 28th December. This change to the bank holiday has an impact on the opening hour requirements for community pharmacies on Saturday 26th December.. Permission must be sought from NHS England to close any core hours. However, if the Saturday opening hours are supplementary hours only, these can be amended by giving at least three months’ notice – permission to close is not required.

NHS England has issued the following statement concerning community pharmacy opening hours during the 2015 Christmas period:

*“NHS England considers community pharmacy to be an important part of our system resilience.*

*We have been promoting community pharmacy to the public as a first stop for self-care and professional advice to elderly people who are ‘feeling under the weather’. In order to support this we will be asking all primary care contractors whose contracted hours include Saturdays to open their normal hours on 26th December 2015. Local arrangements will be put in place to ensure adequate pharmaceutical services are available on the Boxing Day Bank Holiday on 28th December 2015.”*

In light of the above statement it is unlikely that NHS England will give permission for changes in core hours. Pharmacies that do wish to amend core hours for Saturday 26th December should make their applications without delay, and will need to provide such information as is reasonably requested by NHS England in respect of any changes to the needs of the people in its area, or other likely users of the pharmacy, for pharmaceutical services. It should also be noted that in previous years appeals against refusals have been unsuccessful.



 **8. Royal Pharmaceutical Society launches Patient Engagement Hub**

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is encouraging pharmacists and their teams to engage more with patients, carers and the public about the care that can be delivered through pharmacy.

The RPS has designed a patient engagement hub for pharmacy teams. The hub includes a collection of resources, including leaflets, posters and videos, that have already been developed and used by pharmacy teams to speak directly to patients, carers and the public. To access the hub please follow the link below:

<http://www.rpharms.com/landing-pages/patient-engagement-hub.asp>

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 **9. Stoptober**

The NHS Stoptober campaign, a 28-day national stop smoking challenge running in October, is set to return again this year.

The campaign will launch on 3 September, encouraging people to be part of the challenge. Stoptober itself starts on 1 October.

Information is available at the Campaign Resource Centre: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/6-stoptober/resources>

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 **10. Goodbye to Jacki Collett**

We will be wishing Jacki a fond farewell on 28th August 2015, when she leaves the Primary Care Pharmacy Team to take a well-earned retirement after surviving over 30 years in the NHS.



**The Primary Care Pharmacy Team Contact Details**

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