



Humber and North Yorkshire
Health and Care Partnership

NHS
Humber and
North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Health House
Grange Park Lane
Willerby
HU10 6DT

<https://humberandnorthyorkshire.icb.nhs.uk/>

13th August 2026

**** ACTION REQUIRED, PLEASE ** by Friday 4th September 2026**

Please cascade/share, as appropriate.

Dear Colleague

Re: Readiness Expression of Interest (EOI) for Community Pharmacy Prescribing Services (Nationally Commissioned Service)

One response required, per Community Pharmacy contractor.

As set out in the recent [letter confirming arrangements for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2026/27](#), the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England will introduce independent prescribing into NHS Community Pharmacy services from autumn 2026 (~October 2026).

The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) 2026/27 agreement gave a commitment to introduce a national NHS prescribing service from Community Pharmacy. As outlined in the recently published NHS England letter, [Preparing for Prescribing in National Community Pharmacy Services](#), Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are asked to work with Community Pharmacy contractors and local stakeholders to establish processes to identify, approve and onboard prescribing Pharmacies in preparation for implementation.

Further information:

[NHS England » Commissioning guidance for Community Pharmacy prescribing-based services](#)

[NHS England » Professional assurance framework for delivering NHS Community Pharmacy clinical services](#)

NHS England is currently developing the clinical criteria, service specifications, and operational arrangements to introduce prescribing into the existing seven clinical pathways and contraception. NHS England will also introduce five new Pharmacy First prescribing only pathways. Following further clinical consultation these pathways have been agreed as the following:

- Low frequency episodic migraine in adults
- Seasonal allergic rhinitis in children
- Acute otitis externa in adults
- Mild to moderate acne in young adults
- Mild skin and soft tissue infections and scabies



In addition, NHS England will enable prescribing of alternative contraceptive products to improve access and increase choice in the delivery of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service

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Please read the relevant information and then complete the MS Form: [Readiness EOI for Community Pharmacy Prescribing Services \(Nationally Commissioned Service\) – Fill in form](#)

We are asking every Community Pharmacy in Humber and North Yorkshire to provide the ICB and LPC with an indicative 'readiness' expression of interest, via completion of this form. This will allow us to support the development of this nationally commissioned service in our area. The response provided through this MS Form is not binding. However, it will enable the ICB to work with the LPC and Community Pharmacy contractors to identify which Pharmacies are ready to go live in autumn 2026 (~October 2026).

In ~September 2026, the ICB will be required to submit to NHS England a list of Community Pharmacies that are ready to commence prescribing. NHS England will then provide this information to NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to allocate prescribing codes. If a Community Pharmacy does not complete this initial form at all, we will assume that it is not yet ready to provide prescribing services and it will therefore definitely not be included in the submission for a prescribing code. (We will work with all Pharmacies who do respond to the EOI, before any submission to NHS BSA to ensure those contractors are truly ready).

Before completing the form, please read all the associated guidance carefully and consider the best response. Please provide one response per Community Pharmacy site, not per individual Pharmacist. For those Pharmacies that are part of a multiple please ask your line management for your company's approach.

Quick readiness assessment:

A Prescribing Pharmacy will be able to deliver the Community Pharmacy Prescribing Service as set out in the CPCF 2026/27:

- Prescribe for the seven existing clinical pathways (instead of using PGDs).
- Deliver the five additional clinical pathways.
- Prescribe existing and alternative contraceptive products.
- Support patients through Prescription Management.

Prescribing Pharmacies must:

- Follow the [Professional Assurance Framework](#)
- Comply with service specifications and guidance relating to Pharmacy First, Contraception and Prescription Management – these are under development.
- Have the required competencies for the condition they are managing and the medicines that they are prescribing.
- Meet digital requirements set out in the Commissioning Guidance.

Please complete the MS Forms with the most appropriate response - [Readiness EOI for Community Pharmacy Prescribing Services \(Nationally Commissioned Service\) – Fill in form](#)

This is a genuinely exciting moment for Community Pharmacy and for the wider NHS. The move to a nationally commissioned Community Pharmacy Prescribing Service is a landmark step in delivering the



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ambitions of the [NHS Ten Year Plan](#), helping to improve access to high-quality clinical care closer to home and making the best use of the skills of our healthcare workforce.

We are entering a new era for the profession as Newly Qualified Pharmacists join the register as Independent Prescribers. This creates a unique opportunity to embed prescribing as a core component of Community Pharmacy practice, enabling Pharmacists to provide more comprehensive, timely and person-centred care for their local populations.

National commissioning provides the consistency, scale and strategic direction needed to support this transformation. Community Pharmacy has already demonstrated its ability to deliver innovative clinical services and improve patient access to care. The introduction of prescribing services builds on this success, positioning Pharmacist prescribers at the heart of neighbourhood health services, prevention, early intervention and the management of long-term conditions.

I would like to thank all those involved in the Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme over the past two years. Their innovation, commitment and willingness to test new approaches has helped shape the development of this national service and laid the foundations for its successful implementation.

We look forward to working with Community Pharmacy contractors, LPC colleagues and system partners to realise this vision and ensure patients across Humber and North Yorkshire benefit from these exciting developments.

If you have any queries about the new service, please include these in the MS Forms (question 8) OR you may wish to contact your Local Pharmaceutical Committee directly.

If you have any issues with the MS Form – please email:
hnyicb.pharmacyandmedicinesoptimisation@nhs.net

Kind regards

Laura

Laura Angus

Chief Pharmacy Officer/ Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation
NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)