

Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service

An impressive 260 community pharmacies across Essex have signed up to deliver the new MenB Vaccination Service! The total for East of England is currently 929 pharmacies. This is an incredible response from our local network to a national service, ensuring excellent coverage for young people across the county.

As you most probably know, the service is for young people in Year 13 (regardless of their future academic plans) and those aged under 25 years who are starting university or residential further education for the first time in autumn 2026. Starting 20th July 2027 to 31st March 2027

The pace of this service is moving fast, and we know that you will be receiving regular updates from the East of England Vaccination Programme team. We have also been sending them out to pharmacies and apologise for any duplications, but we would rather you get them twice than not at all.

We have created a MenB page on our [website](#), and alongside this we are uploading “[latest news](#)” items as and when we receive them.

The office has been receiving lots of queries and questions about the service, and with the support from the Vaccination Programme team, these have been answered.

• **Drop-In Support Sessions:** The East of England team are hosting quick, highly informative drop-in sessions to answer your queries. This is your opportunity to ask them directly any questions you may have; you do not have to stay for the entire meeting. You can join at any point during the 30-minute session, ask your question, and leave immediately with an answer or response, or stay for the whole session if you prefer. Upcoming sessions are as follows; please do not miss out on attending.

Wednesday 22nd July, 6.30-7 pm: [Join here](#)

Wednesday 29th July, 1-1.30 pm: [Join here](#)

Tuesday 4th August, 6.30-7 pm: [Join here](#)

A few useful pointers....

If you are experiencing temporary stock issues or have no immediate booking availability, please communicate with other community pharmacy colleagues to work together and refer eligible patients to one another locally so our young people do not miss out on their vaccination.

(Side note: Don't forget to check your fridge temperatures, especially during these warmer weeks we have been having and that you are completing stocktakes regularly!)

Even though the service is starting on Monday, 20th July, those pharmacies not yet signed up who want to still have until 11.59 pm on Monday, 20th July 2026 **registration** their declaration via the National Booking Service (NBS) portal. **Absolutely no registrations will be processed after this date**

The Bexsero vaccine is supplied in packs of 10 doses without needles. You must **source your own needles**; NHS England recommends using 25mm, 23G or 25G needles for deep intramuscular injection in this cohort.

Ensure your staff are actively checking the National Booking Service (NBS) to anticipate booking volumes and order stock through the Federated Data Platform (FDP).

First Dose Window: The first dose of the two-dose Bexsero (4CMenB) course must be administered by 31st December 2026.

Second Dose Window: The second dose must be administered by 31st March 2027, keeping the gap of at least 28 days between doses.

Although these are the latest dates for vaccination, giving both doses in July and August 2026 (maintaining the 28-day minimum gap between doses) is advised to optimise protection ahead of the start of the 2026/27 academic year, to maximise the protection for this cohort ahead of the potential for close mixing with new people at this time.

We will feature MenB regularly in our newsletters, and prompt you with key dates going forward, but any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office. Community Pharmacy England also have a webpage, [MenB Update](#).

Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27 Aspiration Payment

Pharmacy owners can now claim Aspiration payment for the PQS 2026/27 via Manage Your Service (MYS). Before submitting your aspiration claim, please review the PQS 2026/27 requirements on the [Pharmacy Quality Scheme - Community Pharmacy England](#) to decide which domains you intend to meet. (Domain 1: Medicines Optimisation and Patient Safety - Domain 2: Professional Practice)

- **The Claim Window:** The portal opened on the 13th July 2026 and will close on the 28th of July 2026 (11:59 PM).
- **Payment Date:** Approved aspiration payments will be made on 1st September 2026.
- **Declaration Period:** The final PQS declaration window will run from 1st February 2027 (9:00 AM) to 26th February 2027 (11:59 PM).

Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) Reminder

This is a critical reminder regarding the outstanding CPAF survey completions. Please refer to the email sent by Karen last week, which contains important guidelines and steps for completion. Currently, we still have numerous pharmacies in Essex that have not yet submitted their CPAF. **Action Required:** Complete your CPAF submission ASAP if you have not already done so.

Community Pharmacy England Opening Hours webinar

Community Pharmacy England has a webinar on pharmacy core and supplementary opening hours on Monday, 20th July.

The webinar will cover the current requirements, including notification and application processes, the assessment process, and practical guidance on the evidence needed to support applications. [To book, click here.](#)

Dates for Diary

Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 8th September at 7.30 virtually. Details will be circulated by the end of July with voting papers

Annual Conference - Sunday 13th September – “**Pharmacy 101**” please hold this date, ALL team members are invited

Morning session will cover CORE, REGULATORY and LEGAL aspects of running your pharmacy: “What you need to do and Why”

Afternoon session – Pharmacy Training and Education, including vaccination training