National Campaign Launch: Respect for Pharmacy Teams - Mandatory Campaign Dates - 2026/27

The first of the 2026/27 CPCF National campaigns kicked off on **October 5** and will run until **October 25, 2026.** The campaign encourages the public to respect pharmacy teams, who continue to face high rates of abuse amid ongoing supply chain delays.

CPCF Mandatory Campaign Dates Confirmed for 2026/27

Under the CPCF agreement, all community pharmacy teams must support up to two national health campaigns, which have been agreed this year as:

- **Campaign 1 — Respect for Pharmacy Teams (Monday, 5th October – Sunday, 25th October 2026):** Now underway, this initial campaign highlights the essential role of community pharmacy staff and promotes a safe, respectful working environment. NHS England and Community Pharmacy England provide dedicated resources, including print posters and digital assets.
- **Campaign 2 — Pharmacy First Service Awareness (Monday, 1st February – Sunday, 21st February 2027):** The secondary campaign will focus on driving public awareness and utilisation of the Pharmacy First service. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Campaign Resource Centre will distribute promotional materials.

Action Required: Pharmacy teams should display materials in both physical areas and on digital channels to ensure full visibility throughout October. For more please visit our website Essex LPC.

Please note that the ICB local campaign supporting young adults is running concurrently. Details were sent by post directly to premises addresses in September.

To read full campaign announcements and stay up to date other local news visit our Latest News Section.

Free NHS Mental Health Awareness Training for World Mental Health Day 2026

To mark World Mental Health Day, Mid Essex Talking Therapies is hosting a free online workshop designed to support healthcare teams and pharmacy staff.

Date: Monday, 12th October 2026 - Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm - Location: Online - Registration required

What the session covers:

This one-hour session builds practical awareness of common mental health challenges and offers actionable guidance for supporting others.

Community Pharmacy England Updates

NHS Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Programmes Rollout

With the flu and COVID-19 season in full swing effect, Community Pharmacy England (CPE) have released optional pre-consultation screening questionnaires to help streamline service delivery and prepare patients for their appointments,

Pharmacies can use these resources to gather relevant details before patient appointments, supporting more streamlined and efficient consultations.

While these forms help capture background information—such as allergy history, current wellness, and recent vaccinations—they do not replace the clinical evaluation. You must still assess each patient's eligibility and suitability for vaccination using your own professional knowledge and eligibility criteria.

You can access the forms directly via the Community Pharmacy England website.

Unpacking the Medicines Shortage: Join Our Upcoming Webinar

Community Pharmacy Essex is hosting a dedicated webinar to dive into the root causes, reimbursement mechanisms, and future solutions.

Price Concessions and Medicines Supply Webinar

- **Date & Time: Thursday, October 15 - 7:00 PM**

Key Topics We Will Cover

- Rising Shortages: Examining the underlying factors driving current medicine supply chain vulnerabilities.
- Concession Pricing: Breaking down how price concessions are negotiated, calculated, and finalised.
- Supply Resilience: Reviewing the measures currently being taken to tackle supply bottlenecks and improve stability.

The session is designed as a two-way dialogue, so if you can attend, it will be an opportunity to share your feedback and day-to-day operational experiences on medicines supply, shortages and concessions.

24/7 All-Age Crisis Text Support Service Launches This Month

NHS Central East, NHS Norfolk and Suffolk, and NHS Essex ICBs have partnered with NXG Thrive to launch a new 24/7 All Age Crisis Text Support Service on Wednesday, 28 October 2026.

The service offers free, confidential support for anyone in Essex, Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Support will be available round-the-clock via SMS, WhatsApp, and Webchat to assist individuals of all ages experiencing emotional distress, anxiety, loneliness, or overwhelming thoughts. This is not to replace existing local NHS and community mental health provision, but rather to add to it.

Individuals can access the service through the following channels:

- **SMS: Text SOS to 80899**
- **WhatsApp: Message 0800 884 0655**
- **Webchat: Visit nxgthrive.co.uk/crisis-text-service**

Webinars & Promotion

To explain how the service operates, how referrals and signposting work, and how partners can help promote the provision, two webinars have been scheduled:

- **Monday, 12 October 2026 at 2:00 PM – Join Teams Webinar**
- **Wednesday, 14 October 2026 at 4:00 PM – Join Teams Webinar**

A communications toolkit will be distributed ahead of the launch. *Please hold all public promotion and external communications until the official go-live date on Wednesday, 28 October.*

Reminder

Workforce Survey

Reminder! The **2026 Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey** is open, and all pharmacy owners across England must submit it by **Friday, 14th November 2026**. Completion of the survey is mandatory for all contractors and must be submitted digitally via the NHSBSA's **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal**.