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## DIRECTIONS

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# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

## The Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments) (England) Directions 2025

The Secretary of State gives the following Directions in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 127, 128, 272(7) and (8) and 273(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(a).

### Citation, commencement, extent, application and interpretation

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments) (England) Directions 2025.

(2) These Directions come into force on 29 October 2025.

(3) These Directions extend to England and Wales but apply in relation to England only.

(4) In these Directions, “the 2013 Directions” means the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2013(b)

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- (a) 2006 c. 41. Section 127 has been amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7) (“the 2012 Act”), Schedule 4, paragraph 64, and by the Health and Care Act 2022 (c. 31) (“the 2022 Act”) Schedule 1, paragraph 1. Section 128 has been amended by the 2012 Act, Schedule 4, paragraph 65, and by the 2022 Act, Schedule 1, paragraph 1.
- (b) Signed on 12th March 2013, and amended by: the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2013, signed on 16th September 2013; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Directions 2013, signed on 6th December 2013, which also revoked the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2013; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2014, signed on 12th March 2014; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Directions 2014, signed on 5th December 2014; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2015, signed on 15th September 2015; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2016, signed on 30th August 2016; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Directions 2016, signed on 30th November 2016; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2017, signed on 29th August 2017; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2018, signed on 8th March 2018; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Directions 2018, signed on 31st August 2018; and the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2019, signed on 13th March 2019; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Directions 2019, signed on 22nd August 2019; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 3) Directions 2019, signed on 11th September 2019, the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Directions 2019, signed on 24th October 2019; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2020, signed on 6th March 2020; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) Directions 2020, signed on 27th March 2020; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (Amendment) (England) Directions 2020, signed on 30th June 2020; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Directions 2020, signed on 28th August 2020; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2021, signed on 9th March 2021; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2021, signed on 29th March 2021; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (Amendment) (England) Directions 2021, signed on 29th June 2021; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2021, signed on 1st September 2021; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (Further Amendments) (England) Directions 2021, signed on 30th September 2021; the Pharmaceutical Services (Smoking Cessation Service) (England) Directions 2022, signed on 9th March 2022; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendment) Directions 2022, signed on 5th April 2022; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments) Directions 2022, signed on 24th August 2022; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Amendment) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 28th March 2023; the Pharmaceutical Services (NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service and Other Amendments) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 17th April 2023; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Further Amendments) Directions 2023, signed on 29 August 2023; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services)

### **Amendment of direction 2 of the 2013 Directions**

2.—(1) Direction 2 of the 2013 Directions (interpretation) is amended as follows.

(2) For the definition of “NHSPCS service specification” substitute—

““NHSPCS service specification” means the Community Pharmacy Advanced Service Specification: NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service produced by NHS England and published in October 2025(a)”.

### **Amendment of direction 7 of the 2013 Directions**

3.—(1) Direction 7 of the 2013 Directions (New Medicine Service: ongoing conditions of arrangements)(b) is amended as follows.

(2) After paragraph (3) insert—

“(4) P must ensure that the only pharmacists employed or engaged by P who provide services on behalf of P to a patient as part of the New Medicine Service at a location other than at P’s pharmacy premises are pharmacists who—

- (a) are directly employed by P or a company in the same group as P (and so are not working under any form of sub-contracting arrangement with P or another company in the same group as P(c)); and
- (b) have the access, while they are delivering any part of the service, to the records of the patient that are held by or accessible to P that they need for the purposes of delivery of that part of the service safely and effectively.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), a group means a parent undertaking and its subsidiary undertakings as defined in section 1162 of the Companies Act 2006(d).”.

### **Amendment of directions 7BK and 7BL of the 2013 Directions**

4. For directions 7BK and 7BL of the 2013 Directions (NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: general matters and preconditions to making arrangements and NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: ongoing conditions of arrangements)(e), substitute—

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(Further Amendments) (No. 2) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 3rd November 2023; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments) (No. 3) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 30th November 2023; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments) (No. 4) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 19th December 2023; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Amendments Relating to the Influenza Vaccination Service) (England) Directions 2024, signed on 29th August 2024; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Amendments Relating to the Adult Influenza Vaccination Service) (England) Directions 2025, signed on 28th August 2025; and The Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Amendments Relating to the Childhood Influenza Vaccination Service) (England) Directions 2025, signed on 28th August 2025.

(a) NHS Publication Approval Reference: PRN02207

(b) Amended by the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Directions 2019, signed on 24th October 2019; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (Amendment) (England) Directions 2020, signed on 30th June 2020; the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Directions 2020, signed on 28th August 2020; and the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2021, signed on 1st September 2021.

(c) Sub-contracting is not currently permitted as part of pharmaceutical services but it is anticipated that it will be enabled in a limited way as part of “hub and spoke” dispensing.

(d) 2006 c.46.

(e) Inserted by the Pharmaceutical Services (NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service and Other Amendments) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 17th April 2023 and amended by the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments)(No.3)(England) Directions 2023, signed on 30th November 2023.

**“NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: general matters and preconditions to making arrangements**

**7BK.**—(1) NHS England must make arrangements for the provision of a service as part of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service Advanced Service with any pharmacy contractor (P) who—

- (a) meets the requirements set out in paragraphs (3) to (11); and
- (b) wishes to enter into such arrangements or is required to do so by virtue of regulation 66 of the PLPS Regulations (conditions relating to providing directed services).

(2) The underlying purpose of the NHSPCS is to offer greater choice where people can access contraception services, and in particular—

- (a) to provide a model for community pharmacy teams to initiate provision of oral contraceptive supplies, and to continue the provision of oral contraceptive supplies initiated in primary care or sexual health clinics using a patient group direction to support the review and supply process;
- (b) to provide a national model for community pharmacy teams to provide free oral emergency contraception to individuals of childbearing potential to reduce the risk of pregnancy after unprotected sexual intercourse or where regular contraception has been compromised or used incorrectly;
- (c) to establish an integrated pathway between existing services and community pharmacies that provides people with greater choice and access when considering starting or continuing their current form of oral contraception, or when requiring emergency contraception;
- (d) to support tackling health inequalities through providing wider access to contraception services, supporting high-risk communities and vulnerable individuals through the provision of an integrated sexual health service to individuals from a pharmacy of their choice with no requirement to be registered with a GP.

(3) P must be prepared to offer consultations for both the initiation of the provision of oral contraceptive supplies and for the continuation of the provision of oral contraceptive supplies.

(4) P must be satisfactorily complying with P’s obligations under Schedule 4 to the PLPS Regulations (Terms of service of NHS pharmacists) in respect of provision of essential services and an acceptable system of clinical governance.

(5) NHS England is to announce the service commencement date for the part of the service that relates to oral emergency contraceptives and P must not commence the supply of oral emergency contraceptives nor commence the delivery of the service via pharmacy technicians prior to the commencement date.

(6) In advance of providing the service, P must notify NHS England of P’s intention to provide the service by completion of an electronic registration declaration on the NHS BSA Manage Your Service platform on the NHS BSA website.

(7) P must ensure that all pharmacy staff who are to provide the service are appropriately trained and competent to do so, as provided for in sections 3 and 5 of the NHSPCS service specification.

(8) P must—

- (a) have standard operating procedures in place covering the provision of the service that cover the matters specified in sections 3.7 and 3.8 of the NHSPCS service

- specification, and must have in place arrangements for regularly reviewing those procedures; and
- (b) have in place arrangements to ensure that all pharmacy staff involved in the provision of the service are familiar with those procedures.
- (9) As regards premises—
- (a) P must have a room for confidential consultations at P's pharmacy premises available for use for the provision of the service which meets the applicable requirements of the PLPS Regulations; and
  - (b) in all cases, where remote access to the service is preferred by the patient, P must have arrangements in place at P's premises which enable a person providing the service to communicate securely and confidentially via live video or audio link with the patient.
- (10) As regards equipment, P must—
- (a) have the equipment for blood pressure readings and body mass index readings that is required by the NHSPCS service specification for delivery of the service;
  - (b) have arrangements in place to meet the minimum digital requirements of the service as provided for in the NHSPCS service specification; and
  - (c) have IT equipment accessible in the consultation room to allow contemporaneous records of the consultation provided as part of this service as provided for in the NHSPCS service specification.
- (11) As regards consultations, P must have arrangements in place to—
- (a) provide all consultations from the pharmacy premises face to face or remote, directly with the person accessing the service, and for whom the medication is for; and
  - (b) ensure that distance selling premises pharmacies do not provide face to face consultations with patients present at the pharmacy premises.
- (12) If P has de-registered from the service, they are unable to re-register for a period of four months from the date of de-registration.

#### **NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: ongoing conditions of arrangements**

**7BL.**—(1) NHS England must ensure that arrangements pursuant to direction 7BK(1) with a pharmacy contractor (P) include terms equivalent to the requirements set out in this direction.

(2) P must comply and must ensure that their pharmacy staff comply, with the requirements of the NHSPCS service specification, in particular, in respect of—

- (a) the inclusion and exclusion criteria in respect of people who are to be offered, or not offered, the service;
- (b) the taking of referrals or patients from other providers of NHS services (although the service may be offered directly to people self-referring, and this possibility may be highlighted to people presenting with prescriptions for oral contraception, it must not be offered, at that time, as an alternative to dispensing the person's NHS prescription);
- (c) responding to requests from patients for the service and where appropriate referring them to alternative providers of a contraception service;

- (d) where the patient consents to receiving the service, conducting the consultation provided for in the NHSPCS service specification in the manner specified, including in respect of—
  - (i) assessing safeguarding issues,
  - (ii) discussing alternative forms of contraception,
  - (iii) body mass index and blood pressure tests, where appropriate,
  - (iv) compliance with the patient group direction in accordance with which the oral emergency contraception or oral contraception may be supplied,
  - (v) if the provision of oral contraceptive supplies is to be initiated, the choice of product,
  - (vi) advice about information sharing, and
  - (vii) discussing additional support and advice;
- (e) outcomes of the consultation, including in respect of repeat supplies and what to do if supplying oral contraception is not clinically appropriate;
- (f) patient safety incidents;
- (g) where a patient attends the pharmacy to access a supply of emergency contraception, highlighting the service to them to consider their ongoing contraceptive requirements;
- (h) communication with the patient’s GP (if the patient has one and the patient consents to this);
- (i) record keeping and data and information management, including compliance with the Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care(a); and
- (j) payment arrangements, post payment verification, monitoring and service evaluation (including what is to be available for inspection if there is a site visit).

(3) P must offer consultations for both the initiation of the provision of oral contraceptive supplies and for the continuation of the provision of oral contraceptive supplies.

(4) P must respond to a request for the supply of oral emergency contraception or oral contraception as soon as is reasonably practicable, and if the pharmacy is unable to offer a consultation within the time frame needed, the individual should be signposted to an alternative pharmacy or other service provider for a consultation.

(5) The responsible pharmacist of P’s pharmacy must ensure that all delegated tasks undertaken as part of the service of which they have oversight are undertaken safely by competent pharmacy staff.

(6) P must ensure that the service is only provided by pharmacists or pharmacy technicians, except that body mass index and blood pressure tests may be conducted by a suitably trained member of the pharmacy team.

(7) P must ensure that all pharmacy staff providing the service are appropriately trained and competent to do so, as provided for in sections 3 and 5 of the NHSPC service specification.

(8) P must—

- (a) have in place and keep updated, as well as regularly reviewing, standard operating procedures covering the provision of the service that covers matters specified in sections 3.7 and 3.8 of the NHSPCS service specification; and

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(a) Published at <https://transform.england.nhs.uk/information-governance/guidance/records-management-code/> and has the NHS England Publication Approval Reference: PAR00019.

- (b) have arrangements in place to ensure that all pharmacy staff involved in the provision of the service are familiar with and adhere to those procedures.
- (9) As regards premises—
  - (a) P must have a room for confidential consultations at P’s pharmacy premises available for use for the provision of the service which meets the applicable requirements of the PLPS Regulations; and
  - (b) in all cases, where remote access to the service is preferred by the patient, P must have arrangements in place at P’s premises which enable a person providing the service to communicate securely and confidentially via live video or audio link with the patient.
- (10) As regards equipment, P must have at all times when the service is provided—
  - (a) the equipment for blood pressure readings and body mass index readings that is required by the NHSPCS service specification for delivery of the service; and
  - (b) arrangements in place to meet the minimum digital requirements of the service as provided for in the NHSPCS service specification.
- (11) P must ensure that the service is accessible, appropriate and sensitive to the needs of all service users, and that no eligible patient is excluded, or experience difficulty in accessing or using the service due to their race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, or age.
- (12) P must keep their profile manager status up to date (as this will ensure Find a Pharmacy and Service Finder are accurate).
- (13) If P is to cease providing the service permanently, P must do so in the manner provided for in the NHSPCS service specification.
- (14) NHS England must be able to suspend P’s participation in the service, and where NHS England does suspend P’s participation in the service, in accordance with the NHSPCS service specification, P must not provide the service during the period of suspension.”

**Amendment of direction 7BP of the 2013 Directions**

5.—(1) Direction 7BP of the 2013 Directions (NHS Pharmacy First Service: ongoing conditions of arrangements)(a) is amended as follows.

(2) After paragraph (2) insert—

“(2A) The arrangements must cap clinical pathways consultations at the monthly levels to be determined as part of a cap methodology, which is to be published in the Drug Tariff as part of the determination for the remuneration of the service, and P is not entitled to be remunerated for more than P’s set maximum number of clinical pathways consultations as determined in accordance with that methodology.”.

**Amendment of Schedule 2 of the 2013 Directions**

6.—(1) Schedule 2 of the 2013 Directions (NMS Medicines) is amended as follows(b).

(2) After the table entitled “Hypertension” insert—

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(a) Inserted by the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Further Amendments) (No. 4) (England) Directions 2023, signed on 19th December 2023.  
 (b) Amended by The Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) (No.3) Directions 2019, signed on 11th September 2019.

*Depression*

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<i>BNF reference</i>	<i>BNF subsection descriptor</i>
4.3.3	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors
4.3.4	Other antidepressant drugs

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Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



24 October 2025

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