

## Introduction to the Community Pharmacy Blood Pressure Check Service

NHS England community pharmacy blood pressure check service is part of national cardiovascular disease prevention and early identification program to reduce premature deaths and reduce health inequalities in our communities

View the full Service Specification [here](#).

### Who is eligible?

- **Adults aged 40 years and over who do not have a current diagnosis of hypertension.**
- **Adults aged 35–39 years** may also be offered the service if they are considered **at increased risk of developing hypertension**, at the discretion of the pharmacy team.
- **GP practices can refer adults of any age, with or without a prior diagnosis of hypertension**, for clinic and/or ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, in line with locally agreed processes.

**Note: Patients with a history of atrial fibrillation or known irregular heartbeat should be excluded from this service.**

## Benefits and Opportunities for General Practice

- **Support hypertension register updates** - Identifying and referring suitable patients for blood pressure monitoring provides an opportunity to update the hypertension (HTN) register.
- **Contribute to QoF 2025/26 indicators** - Referrals to community pharmacy for ABPM can support achievement of the following CVD prevention indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QoF) 2025/26: HYP008, HYP009, CHD015, CHD016, DM036.
- **Improve cardiovascular outcomes** - Early detection and monitoring of high blood pressure through pharmacy services can help improve CVD outcomes across the patient population.
- **Enhance patient access to care** - Collaborative working with community pharmacies enables quicker access to blood pressure monitoring services, particularly for patients who may face delays accessing in-practice appointments.
- **Optimise clinical capacity** - Systematic referral to pharmacy as part of triage or routine consultations can help reduce demand on GP, practice nurse, and pharmacist appointments, allowing greater capacity to focus on more complex cases.
- **Reduce reliance on home BP machines** - Pharmacy referrals may also help decrease practice waiting times for loaning out home BP monitors, streamlining patient care pathways.

## What will the pharmacy do?

Community pharmacies are responsible for carrying out blood pressure (BP) checks, follow-up appointments, and communicating findings with the patient's GP surgery, in line with the processes outlined in the following documents:

- Blood Pressure Check Process [flowchart](#)
- Clinic BP [flowchart](#)
- ABPM (Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring) [flowchart](#)

In most cases, GP practices will **not** need to follow up with patients who have high BP. Instead, **patients should be redirected to the pharmacy for ABPM**. Exceptions include cases where ABPM is unsuitable to be fitted in the pharmacy or where the patient prefers further investigation at the GP practice.

The ABPM device records all readings in its internal memory. An average of at least 14 measurements taken during the patient's usual waking hours is required to obtain an accurate reading. Pharmacy staff should interpret and explain these results to the patient during their follow-up appointment. Please note: to ensure 14 readings are captured before 10pm, the latest time an ABPM should be fitted is 2pm.

Pharmacy staff must complete each service provision on an approved clinical services recording platform (e.g., PharmOutcomes) as part of clinical governance. **Consultation outcomes will be shared directly with the GP practice via GP Connect, integrating into the patient's clinical record.**

## How do I refer patients to a pharmacy?

Please communicate with your local pharmacy(s) to discuss mutually acceptable ways of referrals from GP surgery.

GP practices can use this [template](#)

General practices can refer patients, requiring ABPM / BP check, electronically to the pharmacy. Referrals using AccuRx or NHS mail are very quick and secure way of communication. EMIS practices will have inbuilt template for referrals.

## Which Pharmacies are delivering this service?

**NHS Service Finder:** NHS Service Finder is a free tool for healthcare staff to locate live NHS services near a specific postcode. To find participating pharmacies, search for 'Blood Pressure Checks' under Type of Service.

## How can we promote this service to patients?

Raising awareness of the Blood Pressure Check Service is key to encouraging appropriate use and supporting patient understanding.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Community Pharmacy England (CPE) have released a range of promotional materials to help inform patients and the public. These include posters, flyers, social media graphics, and a press release template, all available for download:

- [DHSC Campaign Resources](#)
- [Community Pharmacy England Resources](#)

## Where can I share positive learnings or raise concerns?

If you would like to share positive experiences, examples of good practice, or raise any concerns, please include as much detail as possible—such as the name of the pharmacy, a brief summary of events, and any relevant dates.

**For service delivery or contractual matters**, please contact the South Yorkshire ICB Primary Care Team at: [syicb.syprimarycare@nhs.net](mailto:syicb.syprimarycare@nhs.net)

**For clinical queries related to the service**, contact: Claire Thomas – [claire.thomas47@nhs.net](mailto:claire.thomas47@nhs.net)

**For support with implementing referrals or collaboration with community pharmacies**, contact: Community Pharmacy South Yorkshire (CPSY) – [info@cpsy.org.uk](mailto:info@cpsy.org.uk)