

Hypertension Case-Finding Service

IMPORTANT UPDATE



CHANGES TAKE
EFFECT EFFECTIVE

3

SEPTEMBER
2026

NHS England has published an updated HCFS specification.

The changes, agreed with Community Pharmacy England, better reflect the service's primary purpose of identifying people with previously undiagnosed hypertension.



Read the revised service specification

[CLICK HERE](#)

KEY CHANGES TO THE SERVICE



Patients already being treated for hypertension are no longer eligible for a clinic check.



General exclusion for people who have had a blood pressure check in the last five years.



GP signposting is restricted to adults aged 40+ without a diagnosis of hypertension, who have not had a BP check in the last 5 years.



Other commissioned healthcare professionals (optometrists and dentists) can request ABPM following a clinic check in their service. This does not include another community pharmacy.



Requirements around patient consent, clinical judgement, escalation of abnormal results and health promotion have been clarified.



ABPM requirements clarified - time, minimum readings, follow-up of non-attenders and equipment availability.



Record keeping, claiming, monitoring and post-payment verification requirements have been updated.



Off-site provision limited to 4 days per financial year and continues to require prior ICB approval.



Guidance added on the process to request off-site provision and ICB approval framework.



Service continues to support earlier case-finding and better health outcomes for our communities.



ACTION FOR PHARMACY TEAMS

Please ensure pharmacy owners, Responsible Pharmacists and all team members involved in delivering HCFS read the revised specification before 3 September 2026 and update local processes accordingly.



FIND OUT MORE



Revised NHS England Service Specifications
Download the updated HCFS specification

[CLICK HERE](#)



HCFS Service Webpage
Visit the Community Pharmacy England HCFS webpage

[CLICK HERE](#)



CPE Briefing 016/26
Main changes to the HCFS specification (August 2026)

[CLICK HERE](#)

WHY HAVE THE CHANGES BEEN MADE?

The changes ensure the service focuses on case-finding for people with undisqualified hypertension, in line with NICE guidance, and ensures the best use of NHS funding for improved health outcome.



If you have any questions, please contact your Local Pharmacy Committee (LPC) or ICB Medicines Optimisation Team.