An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer - Shaping the Future of Pharmacy Together

Cora O'Connell
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Background

- Pharmacy Workforce Intelligence Report 2023
- Expert Taskforce Report to Support the Expansion of the Role of Pharmacy 2024
- Slaintecare2025+
- Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025

Key Responsibilities

- Strategic Leadership for Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Care in Ireland

How do we get there?



Optimised Pharmacy Care



Sustainable Pharmacy Workforce



Integration

Improved Health Outcomes for All

How do we get there?



Optimised Pharmacy Care



Sustainable Pharmacy Workforce



Integration

Improved Health Outcomes for All

Optimised Pharmacy Care



- Common Conditions Service
- Contraception prescribing Service
- Pharmacist Prescribing
- Enhanced Vaccination Services
- Sexual Health
- Medicines Optimisation Services
- Preventative Care/Screening
- Womens Health
- Health and Wellness Hubs

Sustainable Pharmacy Workforce



- Pharmacy Workforce Strategy
- Policy Development

Integration



- Recognised role in Primary and Secondary Care
- Multidisciplinary Working and Collaboration
- Transitions of Care
- National Electronic Prescribing Service
- National Shared Care Record
- National Electronic Health Record


Community Pharmacy
Agreement 2025
September 2025



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Thank you

From Agreement to Delivery: Partnership in Action

IIOP Webinar| 18 November 2026



Partnership in Action - Pandemic to Sustainable Model

1,400+

Pharmacies providing winter vaccines

475K+

Flu vaccines in 2025–26

>30%

Winter COVID-19 and flu vaccines via pharmacy

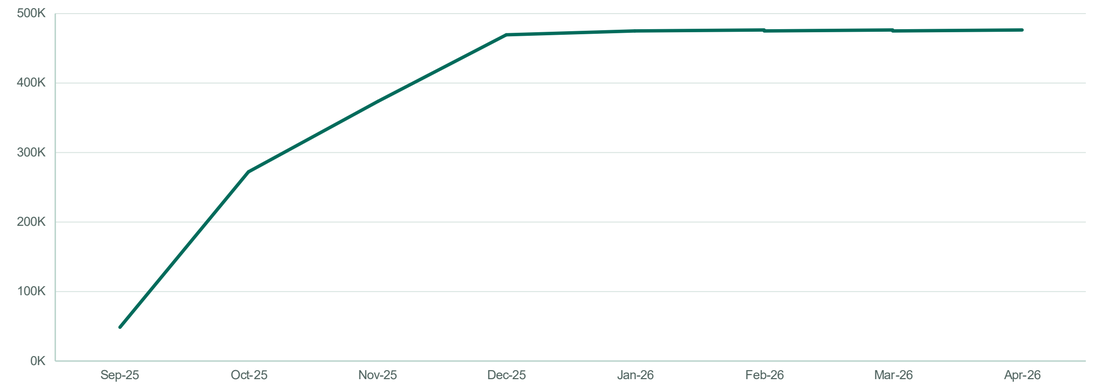
>50%

Children’s flu vaccines via pharmacy

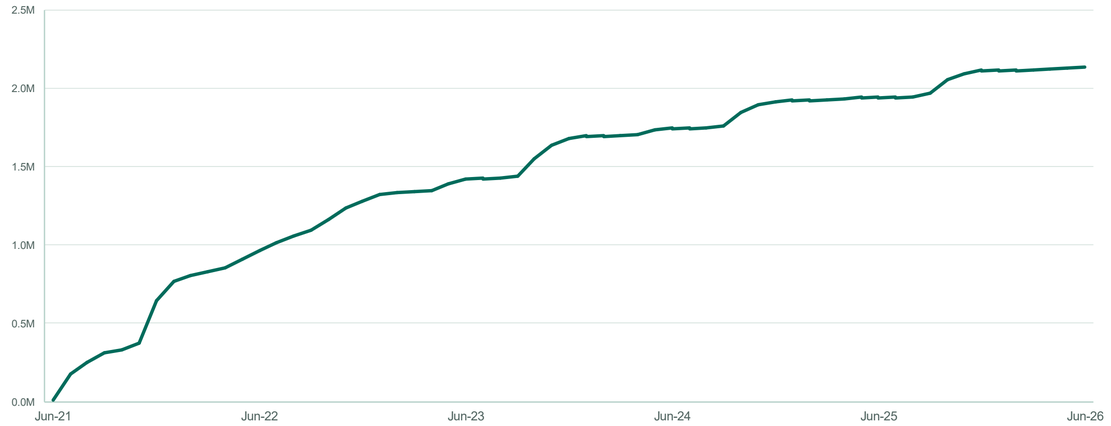
2.13M+

COVID-19 vaccines since 2021

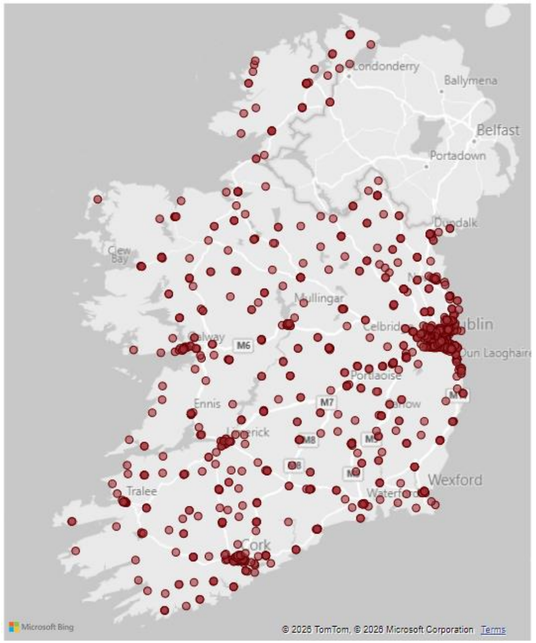
FLU VACCINES 2025-26 SEASON



COVID-19 VACCINES SINCE 2021



Geographical distribution of participating community pharmacies



Partnership in Action - Policy drivers

HEALTH SERVICE REFORM

1 **Sláintecare**

- Providing care closer to home
- Supporting people at home and in their community

2 **Integrated Care** — Organising services around the person

3 **Report of Expert Taskforce to Support the Expansion of the Role of Pharmacy** — Lays out a roadmap for the expansion of the role of pharmacy and the path to independent prescribing

4 **Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025** — Sets out a range of agreed service expansion initiatives

Digital for Care Strategy

Partnership in Action - Core principles



Co-design

Co-design with those delivering and using services, through consultation and collaboration.



Digital first

Build efficient, secure pathways that reduce duplication and administrative burden.



Clear communication

Share timely information, guidance and operational updates.



Relationship management

Single point of contact for query resolution.



Continuous improvement

Measure, learn and adapt through ongoing PDSA cycles.

Partnership is not a workstream, it’s how we work.

Community Pharmacy Agreement – review of 2026

January

Common Conditions Service

February

National Condom Distribution Service

March

April

Pregnancy and alcohol

May

PROTECT PREVENT IMMUNISE

Pneumococcal vaccination

June

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

July

MEDIBACK
Unused Medicines Disposal Service

August

Shingles vaccine (private) notification enabled in PharmaVax

September

Winter vaccines



October



Enablers improving pharmacy operations

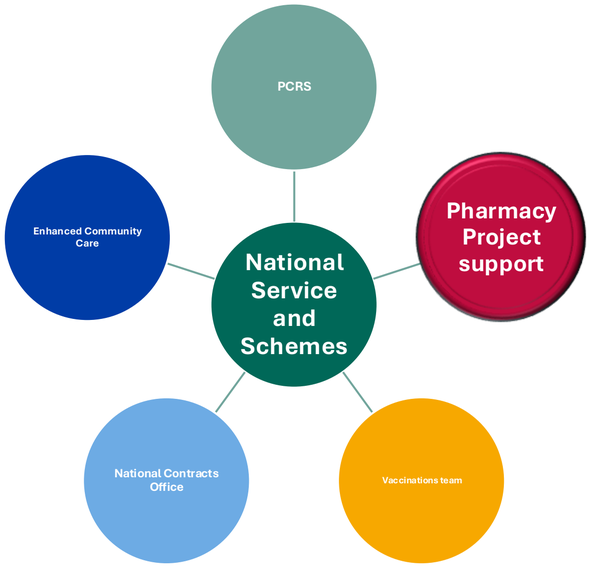
- Integrated Secure Scheme Checker
- Training Grant Portal
- High-Tech Stock Visibility

Partnership in Action – A ‘team of teams’



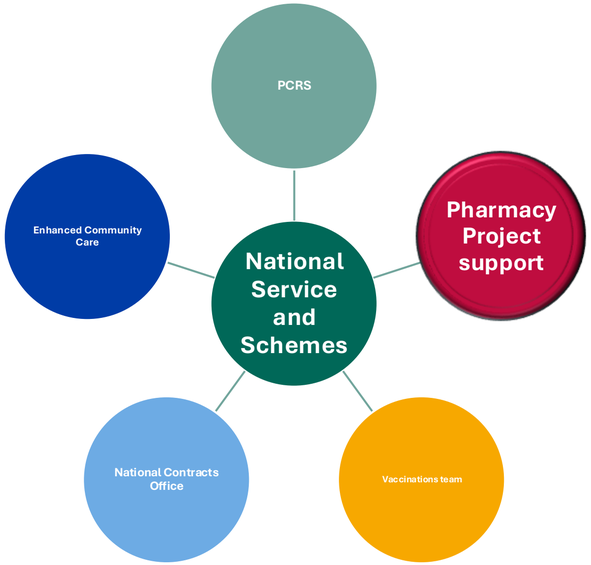
Partnership in Action – A ‘team of teams’

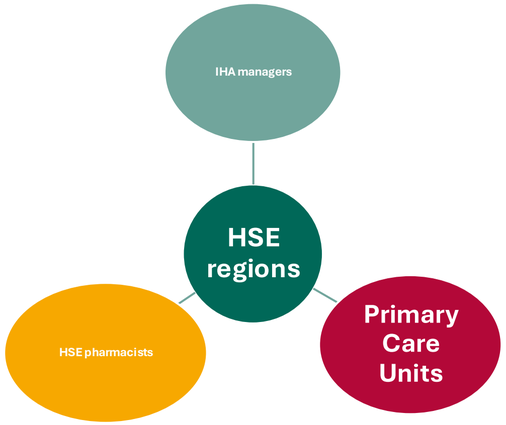




Partnership in Action – A ‘team of teams’







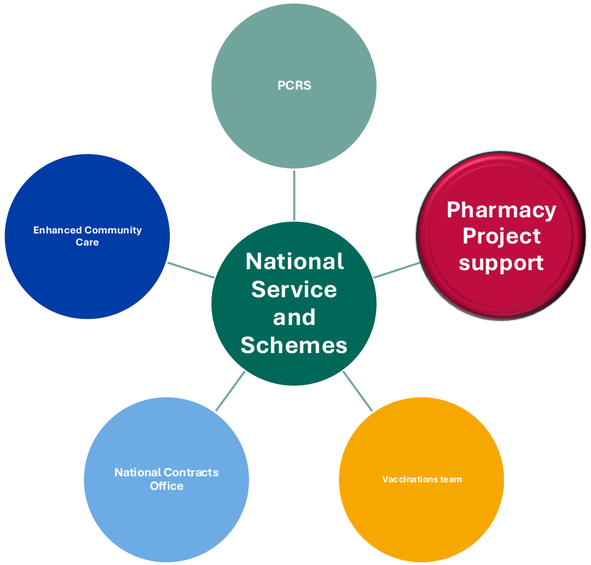
Partnership in Action – A ‘team of teams’

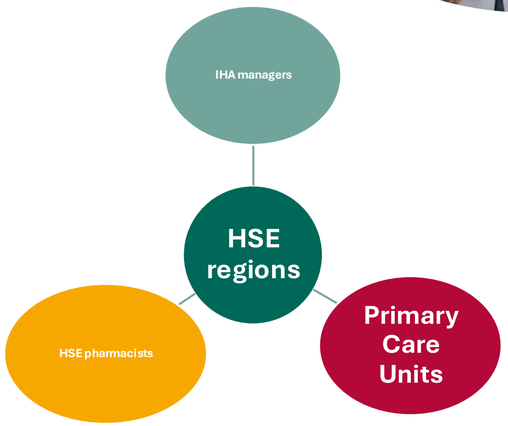


Irish Pharmacy Union

PSI
The Pharmacy Regulator
An Rialtóir Cógaisíochta







An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Partnership in Action – HSE supporting service delivery

Communications

Coordinated communications, operational updates and public information to support consistent implementation.

Guidance and FAQ's

Clinical and operational guidance materials for HSE programmes.

Website

- hse.ie as a trusted source of public-facing service information.
- Webpages containing information specifically for community pharmacists.

Promotional Materials

Campaign assets and materials for in-pharmacy and digital use.

Training Materials

- HSELanD modules eg
  - ✓ Making Every Contact Count
  - ✓ COVID vaccination training
- BowelScreen training for pharmacy teams.

Relationship Management

A dedicated team providing an ongoing point of contact.

Query Resolution

Defined routes for raising, triaging and resolving implementation and operational queries.

Partnership in Action - What's next?

Build on what is working, complete agreed commitments and keep shifting care closer to home.

Service Expansion under CPA25

- Implement the Contraceptive Prescribing Service in community pharmacy
- Complete implementation of the BowelScreen initiative
- Continue to explore opportunities to improve medicines optimisation and the safe management of high-risk medications
- Develop an agreed long-term pathway for the provision of smoking cessation medications via community pharmacies
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of services already implemented in CPA25 e.g. MediBack, Common Conditions Service, NCDS

Digital Enablement

- Priority projects under the Digital for Care Strategy:
  - Individual Health Identifier (IHI) Integration
  - National Medicinal Product Catalogue (NMPC)
  - National e-Prescription Service (NePS)
  - National Shared Care Record
  - HSE Health App
  - One Health Record
- Ongoing improvements to reduce administrative burden and free up clinical time

Future Opportunities

Continue to explore opportunities for service delivery through community pharmacy as part of our integrated health service, to:

- Improve population health
- Improve health outcomes for individual patients
- Improve equity and access, and support those in vulnerable and underserved communities
- Continue the 'shift left', providing services closer to home

Right Care, Right Place, Right Time

Thank you

Irish Pharmacy Union

Evolving role of the Pharmacist and the Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Patient Care Impact of the Community Pharmacy Agreement



Rebecca Barry

Barrys CarePlus Pharmacy, Adare Co. Limerick

Irish Pharmacy Union

Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

Barrys CarePlus Pharmacy – Adare Co. Limerick





Adare

1224

population

Census 2022

- Two pharmacies
- Two GP Practices (7 GPs in practice)

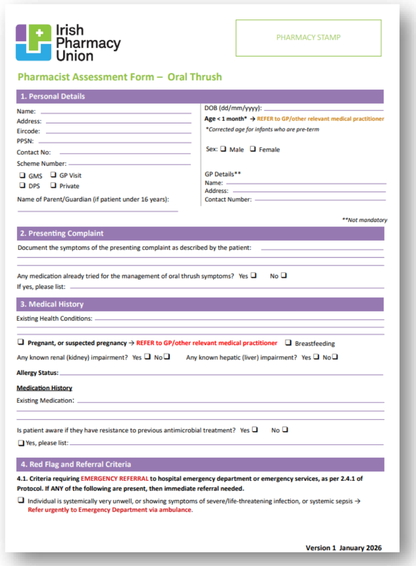
Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

Common Conditions Service

Common Conditions Service

What CCS has allowed me to do for my local population

- UTI, Allergic Rhinitis, Shingles, Oral thrush, Impetigo, and Conjunctivitis
- Treat and Refer



Irish Pharmacy Union

PHARMACY STAMP

Pharmacist Assessment Form – Oral Thrush

1. Personal Details

Name:
Address:
Eircode:
PPSN:
Contact No:
Scheme Number:
❑ GMS ❑ GP Visit
❑ DPS ❑ Private
Name of Parent/Guardian (if patient under 16 years):

DOB (dd/mm/yyyy):
Age < 1 month* → REFER to GP/other relevant medical practitioner
**Corrected age for infants who are pre-term*
Sex: ❑ Male ❑ Female
GP Details**
Name:
Address:
Contact Number:

***Not mandatory*

2. Presenting Complaint

Document the symptoms of the presenting complaint as described by the patient:

Any medication already tried for the management of oral thrush symptoms? Yes ❑ No ❑
If yes, please list:

3. Medical History

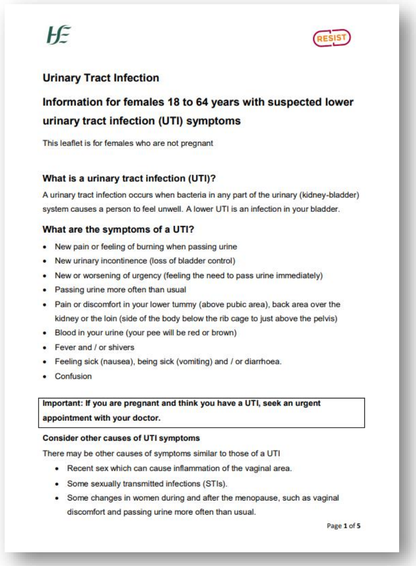
Existing Health Conditions:

❑ **Pregnant, or suspected pregnancy** → REFER to GP/other relevant medical practitioner ❑ Breastfeeding
Any known renal (kidney) impairment? Yes ❑ No ❑ Any known hepatic (liver) impairment? Yes ❑ No ❑
Allergy Status:
Medication History
Existing Medication:
Is patient aware if they have resistance to previous antimicrobial treatment? Yes ❑ No ❑
❑ Yes, please list:

4. Red Flag and Referral Criteria

4.1. Criteria requiring EMERGENCY REFERRAL to hospital emergency department or emergency services, as per 2.4.1 of Protocol. If ANY of the following are present, then immediate referral needed.
❑ Individual is systemically very unwell, or showing symptoms of severe/life-threatening infection, or systemic sepsis → Refer urgently to Emergency Department via ambulance.

Version 1 January 2026



HSE

RESIST

Urinary Tract Infection

Information for females 18 to 64 years with suspected lower urinary tract infection (UTI) symptoms

This leaflet is for females who are not pregnant

What is a urinary tract infection (UTI)?

A urinary tract infection occurs when bacteria in any part of the urinary (kidney-bladder) system causes a person to feel unwell. A lower UTI is an infection in your bladder.

What are the symptoms of a UTI?

- New pain or feeling of burning when passing urine
- New urinary incontinence (loss of bladder control)
- New or worsening of urgency (feeling the need to pass urine immediately)
- Passing urine more often than usual
- Pain or discomfort in your lower tummy (above pubic area), back area over the kidney or the loin (side of the body below the rib cage to just above the pelvis)
- Blood in your urine (your pee will be red or brown)
- Fever and / or shivers
- Feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting) and / or diarrhoea.
- Confusion

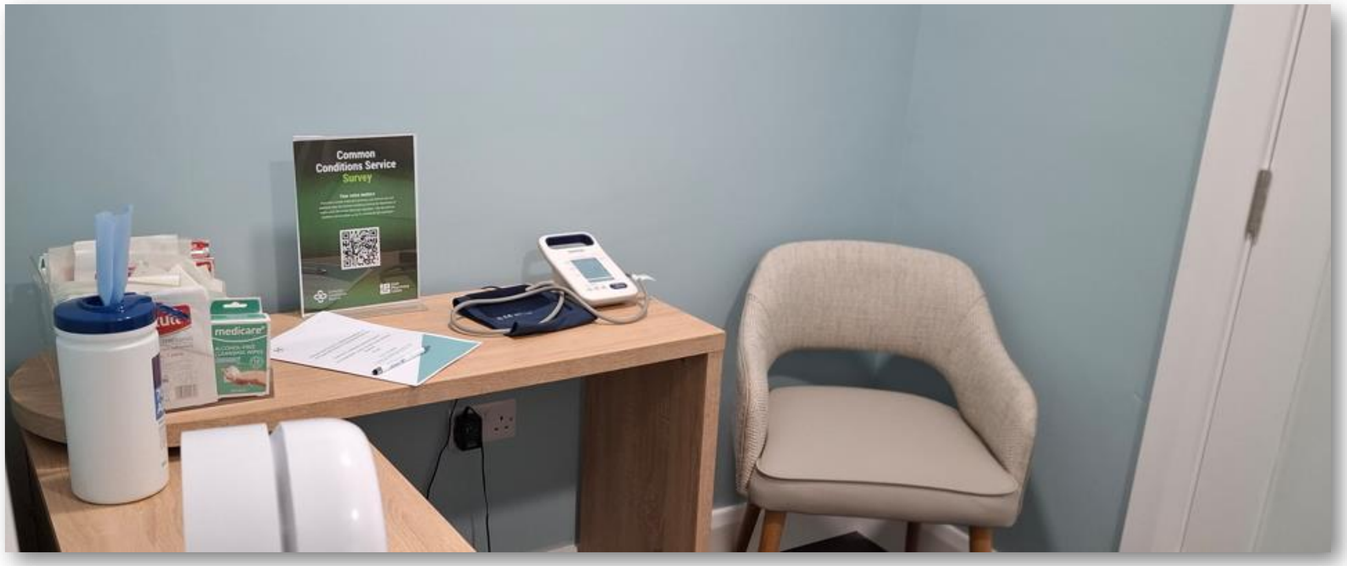
Important: If you are pregnant and think you have a UTI, seek an urgent appointment with your doctor.

Consider other causes of UTI symptoms

There may be other causes of symptoms similar to those of a UTI

- Recent sex which can cause inflammation of the vaginal area.
- Some sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Some changes in women during and after the menopause, such as vaginal discomfort and passing urine more often than usual.

Page 1 of 5



Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

National Condom Distribution Service (NCDS)



BARRY'S
care
+PLUS
PHARMACY

Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

Alcohol Free Pregnancy





Men’s Health Week 2026



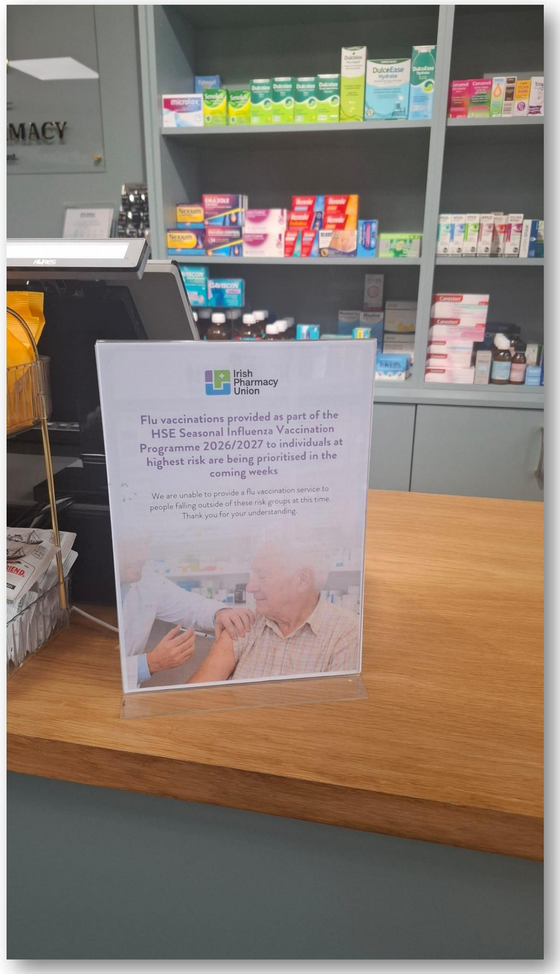


Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

Pneumococcal Vaccination Service







Autumn/Winter Vaccination Programme



Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

MediBack

MEDI BACK
Unused Medicines Disposal Service



Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 in Action

BowelScreen



BowelScreen
The National Bowel Screening Programme

A Year of Progress: Supporting Community Pharmacy

Susan O’Dwyer, MPSI

Head of Professional Services, IPU



Irish Pharmacy Union

Service Expansion and Access

Services and programmes delivered, with the next wave in preparation

DELIVERED

Common Conditions Service

Pharmacist-led prescribing for eight common conditions

Pneumococcal vaccination

Public PPV23 programme started May 2026

Condom Distribution Service

Improving access to sexual health supports

MediBack

National unused medicines return and disposal scheme

BowelScreen

Pharmacies supporting the national BowelScreen programme

Health and wellness hubs

Three campaigns in 2026, incl. Pregnancy & Alcohol, Men's Health Week and Winter Vaccines

Plus: Medicines Optimisation Support Service for GMS patients, from June 2026, Shingles on HSE PharmaVax since 1 August 2026, expanded and uplifted Pharmacy Training Grant

NEXT TO DELIVER

Contraception Prescribing Service — IN PROGRESS

Launch being prepared

BowelScreen Phase 2 roll-out — IN PROGRESS

Supporting patient registration and testing

Clozapine pathway — IN PROGRESS

Pathway mapping underway, new testing model being implemented

POCT pilot — SCOPING

Pathway and pilot in development

Smoking cessation medicines — SCOPING

Long-term supply pathway

Wider vaccination role — NEXT

Travel, catch-up and schools programmes

Common Conditions Service — NEXT

Possibility to extend to more conditions

Service Expansion

CCS Implementation Supports

The IPU has developed practical implementation supports, including:

- Structured **Pharmacist Assessment Forms (PAFs)**
- **CCS prescription template**
- Operational guidance for pharmacies
- Regular service updates

All resources are available on the **IPU CCS Hub**



CCS System Integration

The IPU has worked with vendors and the Department of Health to develop a **Common Conditions Service Operational Requirements Document**.

This document defines:

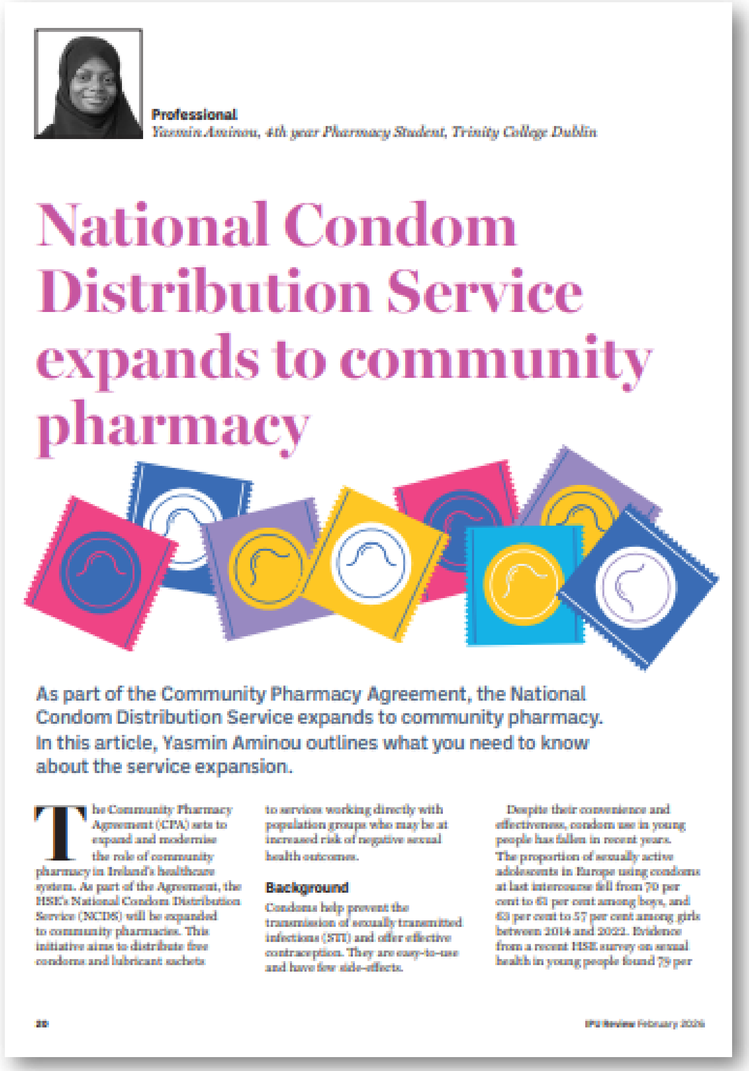
- agreed workflows
- data capture requirements
- system integration needs

Service Expansion

National Condom Distribution Service

The **National Condom Distribution Service arrangement** supports pharmacists to:

- Ensure equitable access to condoms and lubricants
- Work directly with population groups who may be at increased risk of negative sexual health outcomes



Professional
Yasmin Aminou, 4th year Pharmacy Student, Trinity College Dublin

National Condom Distribution Service expands to community pharmacy

As part of the Community Pharmacy Agreement, the National Condom Distribution Service expands to community pharmacy. In this article, Yasmin Aminou outlines what you need to know about the service expansion.

The Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) sets to expand and modernise the role of community pharmacy in Ireland's healthcare system. As part of the Agreement, the HSE's National Condom Distribution Service (NCDS) will be expanded to community pharmacies. This initiative aims to distribute free condoms and lubricant sachets to services working directly with population groups who may be at increased risk of negative sexual health outcomes.

Background

Condoms help prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and offer effective contraception. They are easy-to-use and have few side-effects.

Despite their convenience and effectiveness, condom use in young people has fallen in recent years. The proportion of sexually active adolescents in Europe using condoms at last intercourse fell from 70 per cent to 61 per cent among boys, and 63 per cent to 57 per cent among girls between 2014 and 2022. Evidence from a recent HSE survey on sexual health in young people found 79 per

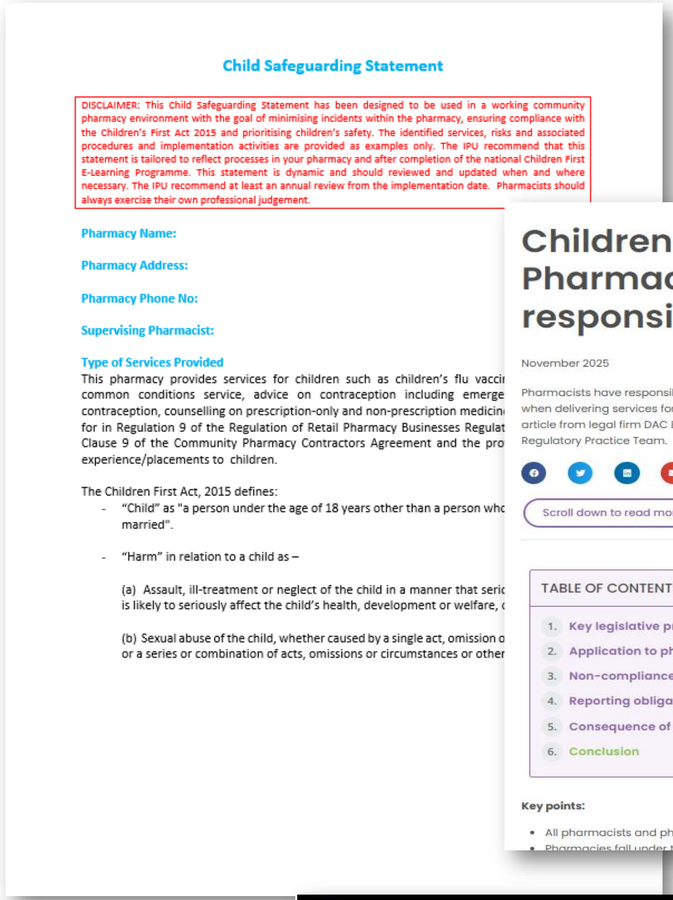
Service Expansion

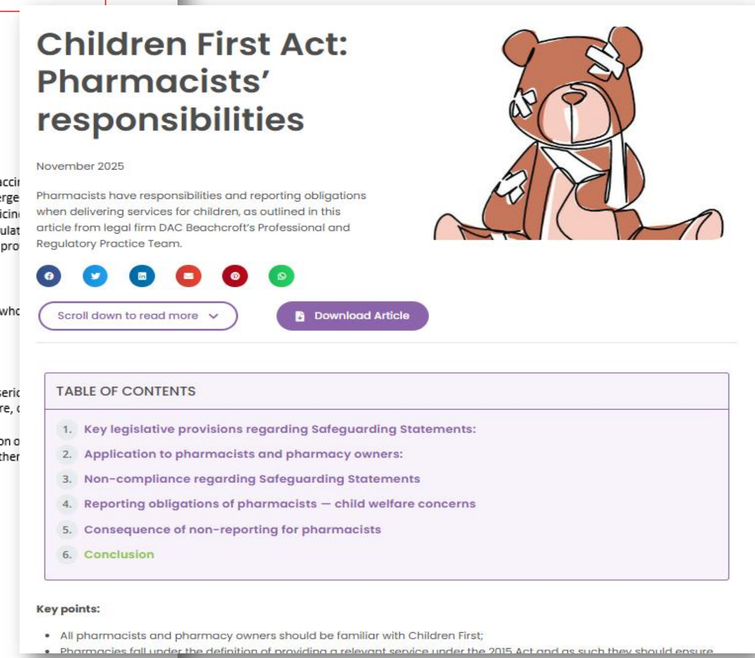
NCDS Implementation Supports

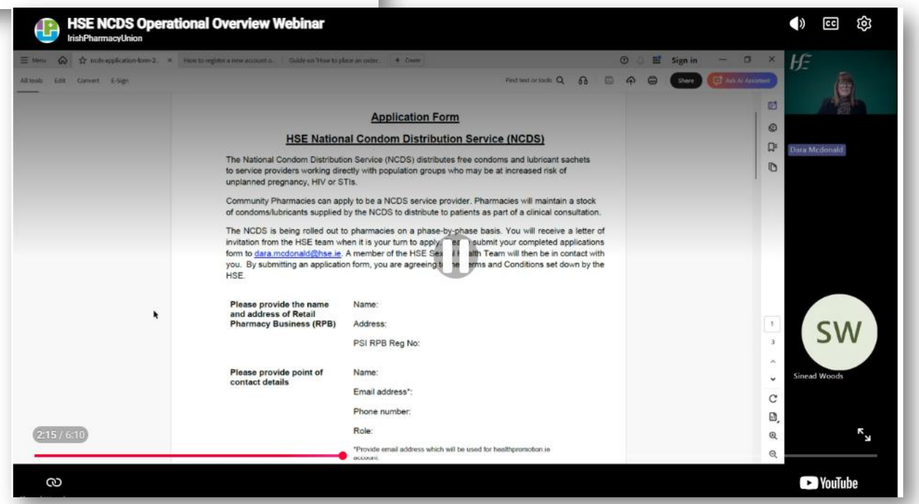
The IPU has developed practical implementation supports, including:

- HSE NCDS Operational Overview Webinar
- IPU Review Articles
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Chaperone Policy

All resources are available on the **IPU NCDS Hub**







Service Expansion

Pneumococcal Vaccination Service

The IPU has developed practical implementation supports, including:

- IPU PPV23 Consultation Record Form
- IPU SOP Template for PPV23
- Excipients List

All resources are available on the dedicated **IPU Pneumococcal Vaccination Hub**

