



Factsheet: CP ITG update (Autumn 2024)

The Community Pharmacy IT Group (CP ITG) held its main quarterly meeting in September 2024 to advance its objectives. The meeting and updates covered many topics, presented below in no particular order of priority are some of the workstream and discussion updates.

Supplier development frameworks



NHS England plans is supporting community pharmacy suppliers in transitioning to the Digital Services for Integrated Care ([DSIC](#)) Catalogue, which will promote development required for pharmacy NHS services modules. This [systems framework](#) is also supporting pharmacy digital developments outlined in the Primary Care Recovery plan. It has similarities with the GP IT Futures programme in which GP IT suppliers could be incentivised to make relevant changes.

EPS: prescription item readiness in NHS App for patients

Community Pharmacy England and CP ITG has long supported additional EPS statuses – as long as these are easily or automatically recordable to keep pharmacy team burden low. The EPS and NHS App teams have been progressing work since 2022 with EPS system suppliers to surface prescription item readiness. Piloting is anticipated from late September 2024.



Original Pack Dispensing IT



New legislative amendments to the Human Medicines Regulations, are to **later** enable pharmacists to dispense prescriptions in a quantity greater or less than 10% of the quantity originally prescribed if this means they can dispense it in the original pack, provided the supply is otherwise in accordance with the prescription. This has IT implications for system suppliers, pharmacy team use of PMR systems, and NHSBSA preparing pricing systems ahead of 1st January 2025 – the earliest at which pharmacy teams will be able to use OPD arrangements.

Research: Process for switching Pharmacy First IT system

NHSE are researching service continuity in the event of a pharmacy team considering switching their Pharmacy First IT system. The user research team are seeking to understand any impacts for pharmacy users and system suppliers. Researchers want to speak with those have switched systems in particular, but also with any others who don't intend to switch and have not done so. Interviews may be possible during around **the 17th to the 27th September 2024**. Please volunteer to a remote interview to ensure that pharmacy feedback is incorporated. Contact it@cpe.org.uk to take part.



Independent prescribing (IP)



NHS England is continuing to advance the independent pharmacy prescribing through the IP Pathfinder Programme for the sector. Pathfinder sites have been selected to implement prescribing models in three categories: existing community pharmacy services, long-term conditions, and novel services. The rollout of the CLEO SOLO system can begin and this will enable community pharmacists to generate prescriptions via the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS). To date CLEO SOLO is the sole supplier in the community pharmacy IP space.

Read more about IT and Community Pharmacy England's IT work:

- Full pharmacy IT bulletin ([pdf](#) or [html](#) versions)
- [Community Pharmacy IT Group](#)