



Briefing for pharmacy teams – the Hypertension Case-Finding Service

This Community Pharmacy England Briefing provides information for pharmacy teams on the Hypertension Case-Finding Service (known as the NHS Blood Pressure Check Service in patient facing communications). [Changes to this Advanced service](#) come into effect from 3rd September 2026.

Background

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is one of the leading causes of premature death in England;
- Hypertension (high blood pressure) is the biggest risk factor for CVD and is one of the top five risk factors for all premature death and disability in England; and
- There are an estimated 5.5 million people who have undiagnosed hypertension across the country.



Early detection of hypertension is vital and this pharmacy service helps do that, including by providing the service to people who do not routinely see their GP or use other NHS services.

Aims of the service

The service aims to:

- Identify people aged 40 years or older* (who have not previously had a diagnosis of hypertension) with high blood pressure and refer them to their general practice to confirm diagnosis and for appropriate management;
- Following signposting of a patient from their general practice, undertake blood pressure measurements for adults who are aged 40 years and over, without a prior diagnosis of hypertension and who have not had their blood pressure checked in the last 5 years;
- Offer ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) checks to adults who are aged 40 years and over at the request of other healthcare professionals such as general practices, optometrists and dentists; and
- Promote healthy behaviours to patients.

* There are some exceptions to this age rule which are explained in the service specification.

Brief overview of the service

- This is a free NHS service which can be provided by suitably trained and competent pharmacy staff under the supervision of the responsible pharmacist.
- The service is provided from a consultation room.

- The service can be provided from other locations off the pharmacy premises but only with consent from the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- Off-site provision is limited to a **maximum of four days** each financial year.
- The service has two stages:
 - **Stage 1** – Identifying people at risk of hypertension and offering them the opportunity to have their blood pressure measured (a '**clinic check**').
 - **Stage 2** – This is offered if a person's blood pressure reading is high at Stage 1. A person will be offered **ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM)**, which uses a special blood pressure monitor to measure a patient's average blood pressure through their waking day. Patients who are then identified with high blood pressure will be referred to their general practice for additional care.
- Best practice for most patients is to arrange ABPM appointments so patients are fitted in the morning (however there will be exceptions to this, such as people who work at night).
- The pharmacy's IT system will send the results of the service to the patient's GP practice.
- The pharmacy must have a standard operating procedure (SOP) in place for this service and all pharmacy staff involved in any aspect of provision of the service must be familiar with and adhere to the SOP.
- General practices may signpost eligible patients to the service for blood pressure checks.
- Individuals who have already been diagnosed with hypertension or who have had their blood pressure checked within the last 5 years are not eligible for a clinic check.
- Adults aged 40 years and over who have had an initial clinic blood pressure check at another healthcare setting may be signposted to the pharmacy for ABPM (e.g. by general practices, optometrists and dentists).



What role can I play in the service?

The whole pharmacy team can be involved in promoting this service and can recruit eligible patients to the service.



When a potentially suitable person is identified, appropriately trained pharmacy staff will need to confirm eligibility and obtain the patient's consent to have their BP measured.

Measuring a patient's blood pressure must only be carried out by appropriately trained pharmacy staff.

Further information on the service can be found at cpe.org.uk/hypertension.