

Hypertension Case-Finding Service

Key changes for community pharmacy teams

Effective 3rd September 2026

Summary of updates to the service specification

PURPOSE



Find undiagnosed hypertension



Reduce routine BP monitoring



Align with NICE guidance

1 Eligibility updates



- No diagnosis or treatment for hypertension — and no BP check in the past 5 years.
- This applies to checks in primary care, community pharmacy, optometry, dentistry and other health settings.
- In exceptional clinical cases (detailed in the service specification), **one repeat blood pressure check may be warranted within a five-year period.**
- **If an additional check is carried out, this must be clearly documented in the patient record.**

2 Eligible patients



- Adults 40+ without a diagnosis of hypertension.
- Under 40s: only if family history or high-risk ethnic group.

i Signposting from general practice for a clinic check is **restricted to adults aged 40 years and over** without a diagnosis of hypertension, who have not had a blood pressure check in the last five years.

3 New: optometrist & dentist referrals for 40+



- Adults aged 40 years and over who have had an initial clinic blood pressure check at another healthcare setting (general practices, optometrists and dentists) can be signposted for ABPM.
- **Do not repeat the clinic check.**

4 Consultation & ABPM



- Explain the service and ABPM process upfront.
- Record recent BP readings from other settings.
- **Good practice is to include night-time readings.**
- Minimum 14 ABPM readings during waking hours.

5 Off-site provision



- Requires ICB permission.
- Maximum 4 days per financial year.
- Submit a risk assessment.
- Pharmacist or trained technician supervision required at the site.

6 ABPM DNA / contact requirements



- Contact non-attenders on at least **two separate** occasions.
- Document contact attempts and outcomes.
- Inform the GP.

7 Under 40s — documentation



- Record family history or high-risk ethnicity.
- Retain eligibility evidence and share with the GP if requested.

8 More information & resources



Service specification • briefings • FAQs
Posters and patient resources

cpe.org.uk/hypertension-case-finding-service

WHY THESE CHANGES?



Prevent routine monitoring

Focus on finding undiagnosed hypertension.



Improve clinical referrals

Refer patients appropriately and promptly.



Protect NHS resources

Use resources where they have the greatest impact.



This is a summary of the key changes. Pharmacy owners and Responsible Pharmacists should read the revised service specification in full.