

**From Emma Quinn
Pharmacy Lead, SPPG**



**By email:
For the attention of all Community
Pharmacies currently providing the
Pharmacy First Pilot Service for the
Treatment of Shingles**

**Strategic Planning and Performance
Group**
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Date: 24 March 2026

Dear Colleagues

PHARMACY FIRST PILOT SERVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF SHINGLES EXTENSION UNTIL 30th SEPTEMBER 2026

Service Extension

I am pleased to announce that the Pharmacy First Pilot Service for the treatment of shingles, which launched on 6th January 2025, will now continue until **30th September 2026**.

Review of the pilot service

You will be aware from [previous correspondence](#) that the Medicines Optimisation and Innovation Centre (MOIC) is currently undertaking a review of the pilot service. The purpose of the review is to determine if the aims and objectives of the service, as outlined in the [service specification](#) are being achieved.

Thank you to all of the participating pharmacies for submitting records (*for all consultations undertaken from 6th January – 30th June 2025*) to enable this review. The extension to the service (*until 30th September 2026*) will ensure that the service can continue until the MOIC review has been completed. The outcomes of the review will provide a useful evidence base informing the value of the service and any future expansion or roll-out.

Service documentation

The service specification has been refined to reflect the exclusion criteria for chronic kidney disease that are contained within the PGDs for aciclovir and valaciclovir.

All resources to support this service, including the service specification, consultation forms and patient group directions (PGDs) can also be accessed on the [BSO Website](#). **Please ensure that you are using the most up-to-date versions of the service resources.**

Promotion of the service

Pharmacies may wish to take this opportunity to remind GP practices that they provide this service and to encourage them to refer suitable patients to the pharmacy. Pharmacies may also wish to promote the service on social media using the Twitter and Instagram resources available on the [BSO Website](#). Service posters have been provided and should be displayed in the pharmacy.

If you have any queries in relation to this Pharmacy First Service, please contact your Pharmacy Adviser (contact details, are available [here](#)).

Yours sincerely,



Emma Quinn
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Strategic Planning and Performance Group

<i>Contact Details for Local Primary Care Offices:</i>				
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