

From Kathryn Turner
Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management
(Interim), SPPG



By email

To Community Pharmacies contracted to
provide the OTC Codeine pilot

**Strategic Planning and Performance
Group**

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Date: 19th June 2026

Dear Colleague,

**RE: THE COMMUNITY PHARMACY OTC CODEINE PILOT SERVICE – REMUNERATION
CLARIFICATION AND UPDATED TRAINING LINK**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing engagement with the pilot and the important role you play in delivering this service. SPPG has received a number of queries regarding the remuneration arrangements for the Community Pharmacy OTC Codeine Pilot Service. We are writing to provide further clarification to support participating pharmacies and to share an updated training link.

Remuneration Clarification

- Completion of a [Risk Assessment Tool](#) is required and forms the basis for claiming under the service. These should be submitted via [MS Forms](#) promptly to ensure payment.
- Pharmacists can claim for the “**Patient Identification and Brief Intervention**” element once a risk assessment has been completed with the individual.
- Where a patient **declines to proceed further with a brief intervention**, remuneration can still be claimed, provided the risk assessment has been completed and the outcome is clearly documented on the Risk Assessment Tool.
- However, where an individual **does not consent to the completion of a risk assessment**, this would not meet the threshold for remuneration.

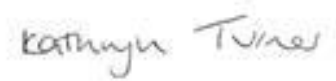
Updated Training Link

The ASCERT “*Codeine Awareness and Brief Interventions for Pharmacists*” training can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xL8t9ARQphU>. **N.B. This is a replacement for the previously circulated link, which has now expired. You may need to**

copy and paste the link into your browser. If you experience any difficulties accessing the training, please contact Elena Brewer (elena@ascert.biz).

If you have any queries regarding the pilot service, please contact Michael.McCabe@hscni.net (Pharmacy Advisor, SPPG) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



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Stephanie Hanlon,
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