



Changes to Referrals for and the Delivery of Hypertension Case Finding in Community Pharmacy from 3/9/26

Please note that this is a nationally commissioned service by NHSE and all criteria have been agreed and defined by national bodies

- General Practices can refer to the service electronically: signposting for a clinic check will only be allowed for people aged over 40 years without a prior diagnosis of hypertension and who have not had their blood pressure checked in the last 5 years.
- Adults aged 40 years and over who have had an initial clinic blood pressure check at the surgery can be referred for ABPM at pharmacy.
- Following clinic check by the pharmacy (either following referral or opportunistic check) AMBP is to be offered by the pharmacy if indicated (criteria: High BP of between 140/90mmHG and 179/119mmHg (NICE NG136)).
- All results are reported back to the GP practice electronically
- Criteria for immediate onward referral to A&E or same day referral to General Practice are clearly defined in the NHSE specification on the link below under Annex E Summary Table of Action and follow NICE NG136

- BP checks should only be repeated every 5 years.
- Patients, by exception, under the age of 40 who do not have a current diagnosis of hypertension, but who request the service because they have a family history of hypertension or who are at increased risk of developing hypertension (South Asian and African-Caribbean populations) may receive the service at the discretion of pharmacy staff. Contemporaneous notes of the reason for inclusion should be made in the clinical record where discretion is applied.
- Exceptionally, patients between 35 and 39 years old who do not have a current diagnosis of hypertension, but who are approached by pharmacy staff about the service may be tested at the discretion of the pharmacy staff. Contemporaneous notes of the reason for inclusion should be made in the clinical record where discretion is applied.
- Off-site BP checks can only be delivered for a maximum of 4 days per year and permission must be sought from the ICB to do so prior. The form can be found here -
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/pharmacy-contractor-request-form.docx>
- A full service specification is given by NHSE at

[NHS England » Advanced service specification: NHS community pharmacy hypertension case-finding advanced service](#)

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