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Whilst taking the opportunity to welcome the introduction of the Pharmacy First service, a letter co-signed by 13 MPs makes clear that pharmacies cannot relieve further pressure on other parts of the health service unless they receive appropriate investment and support.   The cross-party letter was co-ordinated by Community Pharmacy England following a Parliamentary drop-in event held last month on the Pharmacy First service. The well attended event showcased the value of the new service while also highlighting the critical financial and operational pressures facing community pharmacies to Parliamentarians and their teams.   **Our Chief Executive Janet Morrison said:** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | | [**Read the letter, including our CEO's full statement**](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=befd0aaa2f&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | What we've shared with the press lately... We regularly brief journalists and provide press statements to ensure that the voice of community pharmacy is heard. This has led to an increased interest from publications seeking our comments and interviews on critical issues for the sector, such as pharmacy closures, rising costs, and problems with medicine supply.  In order to reach as wide an audience as possible, we regularly engage with both national and regional press outlets. Recently, we helped coordinate an article entitled 'I run a pharmacy and we're struggling to cope' with [iNews](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=b742ccf37e&e=d19e9fd41c). This piece highlighted the challenges faced by pharmacy owners and featured commentary from our East of England regional representative, Anil Sharma. Another of our regional representatives, Sami Hanna from the North East, was interviewed on [Planet Radio](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=104632189f&e=d19e9fd41c) just before Easter to discuss pharmacy closures in his region.  **Here are some other press statements we have issued recently:**   * [Describing the desperate state of pharmacies as part of our evidence to the Health Select Committee inquiry](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=7f6b79e0cd&e=d19e9fd41c); * [Calling for urgent relief in our response to the Spring Budget](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=dd1f5e7593&e=d19e9fd41c); and * [Addressing the fight for survival in our comment one month into the Pharmacy First service (published by iNews)](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=904fcd375b&e=d19e9fd41c). | | | | |  | | --- | | [**View our Press Statement index**](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=0a1cc3094b&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Out-of-pocket expense payment for unlicensed Cefuroxime 5% eye drops preservative free Following representations made by Community Pharmacy England on behalf of pharmacy owners, an additional £50 out-of-pocket expense payment will automatically be applied to NHS prescriptions for Cefuroxime 5% eye drops preservative free from March 1st, 2024.  This payment is intended to cover the delivery and handling charges incurred by pharmacies due to the unique requirements of these eye drops. It will also be backdated to cover prescriptions submitted as dispensed between April 2023 and February 2024.  [Learn more](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=d276467b03&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | | [Community Pharmacy England banner](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e5632c397b&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Twitter](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=07658053f9&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Facebook](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=58acd002b5&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [LinkedIn](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=24dfedeec6&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Website](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9933600ecc&e=d19e9fd41c) | | | | | | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Community Pharmacy England** Address: 14 Hosier Lane, London EC1A 9LQ Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: [comms.team@cpe.org.uk](mailto:comms.team@cpe.org.uk)  Copyright © 2024 Community Pharmacy England, All rights reserved.  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