

Thames Valley Prescribing Scheme (TVPS) 2026-27

Briefing for Community Pharmacy

*****For information ONLY, no action required*****

The Prescribing Scheme (PS) has been developed to improve the quality and safety of prescribing in primary care. It is expected that all practices across Thames Valley ICB will participate, with a financial incentive linked to achievement.

The scheme will run from 1 July 2026 to 31 March 2027, and practices will be required to meet the specified targets within the timeframes outlined in the tables below.

Targets

This year's scheme includes six targets. General Practices can choose to participate in some or all of them and will be rewarded accordingly.

Target 1 – Cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) stage 3

Target 2 – Frailty and Structured Medication Reviews

Target 3 – Antimicrobial Stewardship

Target 4 – Medicines Safety

Target 5 – Cost-effective Prescribing

Target 6 – GP and Community Pharmacy integration

As you can see, this year's scheme includes a community pharmacy target, aimed at encouraging stronger collaboration between practices and their local community pharmacy teams. It seeks to improve patient awareness and engagement with the pharmacy contraception service. As part of this, practice team members may contact local pharmacies to understand their capacity, agree referral processes, and establish effective communication arrangements. Further details are provided below.

Thames Valley Prescribing Scheme Targets - July 2026 – March 2027

Target 6 – GP and Community Pharmacy integration	Rationale
An appropriate member of the practice team to identify which of their local pharmacies provide the Pharmacy Contraceptive Service and arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the contraceptive service with at least 1 pharmacy, depending on local provision. The meeting should cover the scope of service (ie initiation and/ or ongoing supply) and capacity and include how referral into the service works. The practices must then complete the action plan provided by MOT which should also detail how the practice will: a) Increase patient awareness and uptake of service using national promotional resources: NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service NHS Primary Care Services Campaign Resource Centre b) Make every contact count, i.e. take every opportunity to signpost eligible patients into the Pharmacy Contraception Service including at point of request for contraception (initiation, ongoing supply and EHC). c) Identify eligible patients and proactively contact using the patients preferred method of contact e.g. text messaging, to signpost to the Pharmacy Contraception Service.	The Pharmacy Contraception Service enables community pharmacies to provide routine contraceptive care, supporting a more integrated approach to service delivery while increasing patient access and maintaining high standards of clinical care. By enabling trained pharmacy professionals to initiate and continue the supply of oral contraception within a structured clinical framework, the service enhances the capacity of the wider healthcare system to deliver contraceptive care. The service also includes the provision of emergency contraception, ensuring that patients can access timely intervention following unprotected sexual intercourse or contraceptive failure, helping to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy. By offering both routine and emergency contraceptive care, the service supports continuity of care, facilitates prompt access to appropriate treatment, and contributes to improved health outcomes for individuals and communities. By engaging with this element of the scheme, through active signposting of appropriate patients, practices can support patient choice, make effective use of the wider primary care workforce, and help optimise general practice capacity to focus on more complex sexual and reproductive health needs. It aligns with national public health priorities by reducing health inequalities, promoting preventative healthcare, and strengthening collaboration between community pharmacy and general practice to meet the increasing demand for contraceptive services.