

Hypertension Case-Finding Service: Quick Guide for Contractors

The Hypertension Case-Finding Service is a national service which helps identify individuals who may be at risk of health complications such as cardiovascular disease. Under the service, pharmacy sites must offer free blood pressure checks to eligible patients, and when necessary, ambulatory monitoring (ABPM) across **all their core and supplementary hours**.

Elements of the Service

The service consists of two progressive elements, clinic checks and ambulatory monitoring. Contractors must offer both elements of the service (clinic check and ABPM). It is important that you ensure you have both blood pressure and ABPM machines available. If you experience a breakage, then you must source a replacement as soon as possible. If this is not possible, you will need to temporarily deregister for the service until you are able to accept referrals or walk-in patients and offer ABPM monitoring to patients with high clinic check readings as per the service specification.

Payments for the Service

Pharmacies participating in the service receive a set-up fee of £440, plus £10 for each clinic blood pressure check and £50.85 for each ABPM provision.

Patient Eligibility

Clinic Check	ABPM
Blood pressure check offered on-site by pharmacy trained pharmacy staff.	Machine loaned to patient to complete 12 readings across the patients' waking hours at home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient can be identified as eligible from the following criteria by pharmacy staff • Any patient is eligible with a referral • Patients over 40 with no current diagnosis of hypertension eligible • Patients aged 30–39 with a family history of hypertension • Adults aged 18 or over with symptoms or risk factors of hypertension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy staff can only offer this to walk-in patients as an extension to a high clinic check reading • Initial reading must be higher than 140/90mmHg to be eligible • Any patient eligible via referral with no clinic check needed • ABPM must be offered to all eligible patients following a high clinic check reading

You can find more detail on patient eligibility by reading the [NHS service specification](#)

Registration and Deregistration

Pharmacies can register for the service by completing an application and notifying NHS England via the MYS (Manage Your Service) site. If you choose to deregister for the service in the future, you must provide 30 days' notice and will be restricted from registering for the service again for 4 months.

If you need to temporarily deregister for the service, you will need to update your services on NHS profile manager. We also advise you inform your local GP practices of the temporary suspension and provide some indication of when the service will recommence. It is better to deregister for the service if you cannot provide all elements of the service rather than risk the reputation of the service if you need to reject referrals.

Guidance for Clinic Check Readings

Normal – (Below 140mmHg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reassure the patient that their blood pressure is normal and give healthy lifestyle advice if deemed necessary
High – (Between 140/90mmHg and 180/120mmHg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the service specification you must offer an ABPM appointment within a suitable timeframe Offer lifestyle advice and inform patient of the next steps in the service
Very High – (Above 180/120mmHg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the patient is experiencing no symptoms, you must ensure you escalate to the patients GP for an urgent same day referral. If the patient is experiencing symptoms/red flag symptoms* then you must conduct an emergency referral by calling 999 or advise the patient to go to A&E.

Guidance for ABPM Readings

Average reading of lower than 135/85mmHg and higher than 90/60mmHg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient should be given a copy of their results and advised on how to maintain healthy behaviours
Average reading of 135/85mmHg or higher but lower than 170/115mmHg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients should be referred to see their GP within three weeks
Average reading of 150/95mmHg or higher but lower than 170/115mmHg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients should be referred to see their GP in 7 days unless symptoms are reported Patients who report symptoms* should be advised to see a medical professional sooner The responsible pharmacist (if not providing the service) should be made aware of the result before the patient leaves the pharmacy During opening hours, the pharmacy must call the GP practice whilst the patient is still in the pharmacy to communicate the readings. The readings must also be communicated via NHSMail or another secure digital process
Average reading of 170/115mmHg or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients should be urgently referred to see their GP on the same day Patients should be asked about other symptoms and those with acute symptoms should be given a record of their results and referred to A&E The responsible pharmacist (if not providing the service) should be made aware of the need for a same day referral During opening hours, the pharmacy must call the GP practice whilst the patient is still in the pharmacy to communicate the readings. The readings must also be communicated via NHSMail or another secure digital process

*A full list of symptoms is available in the NHS service specification in the **resources below**

[NHS service specification](#)

[NHS blood pressure guidance](#)

[CPE Hypertension Case-Finding resources](#)