

DE-CODING DIAGNOSTICS FOR CLINICAL PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

31st March 2026

The Hub, Walsall College, Littleton Street West, Walsall WS2 8ES.



MIDLANDS
PRACTICE
PHARMACY
NETWORK

INTRODUCTION

Following the success of our 'Blood Test Interpretation' workshop in November 2025 we are pleased to announce our follow-up session: **'De-coding Diagnostics for Clinical Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians'** to be held in Walsall on **Tuesday 31st March 2026**.

As before, the workshop will be delivered by Dr Maiedha Raza who has developed a programme designed to build confidence in the interpretation of commonly encountered blood tests and to support safe, evidence-based clinical decision-making within scope of practice. The workshop will cover the fundamentals of requesting blood tests, interpreting findings and acting within professional competencies. With a strong focus on case-based learning, practical decision-making and managing uncertainty you will gain an understanding of, and work through realistic clinical scenarios ranging from inflammatory markers and rheumatology, monitoring DMARDs, hormonal and GI tests, and coagulation.

The day will be interactive with opportunities for questions throughout.

SPEAKER - DR MAIEDHA RAZA

Dr Maiedha Raza is an NHS GP who delivers lectures and workshops in effective communication skills. She has an interest in compassion and empathy and works as a clinical lead at a medical school. She also works as a mentor, academic coach, podcaster and previously worked as a training programme director. She is also currently working as a GP appraiser with NHS England. In 2023 she also won a 'Women of Excellence' award for her work in teaching communication skills.

VENUE, DATE & RESERVATIONS

- The Hub, Walsall College, Littleton Street West, Walsall WS2 8ES
- Tuesday 31st March 2026
- Audience: Clinical Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Foundation Year Pharmacists

If you would like to reserve a place at the workshop please email jonah@mppn.org.uk.

SPONSORS

This workshop is sponsored by pharmaceuticals companies (TBC) who have only paid for exhibition stand space at the meeting and therefore will be given the opportunity to discuss their products with attendees. Sponsors will be present with an exhibition stand and the stand will not be in a public space. None of the companies have had any input into the content of the programme, and no involvement in choosing, briefing or paying the speakers.



PROGRAMME

8:30 am	Registration, coffee and networking
9:15 am	Welcome – Bharat Patel, MPPN Chair
9:30 am	<p>Session 1: Inflammatory Markers & Rheumatology Bloods – Dr Maiedha Raza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Introduction to relevant physiology and inflammatory pathways</i> - <i>Inflammatory markers: CRP, ESR – strengths, limitations, and common pitfalls</i> - <i>Autoimmune markers: RF, Anti-CCP – sensitivity, specificity, and false positives</i> - <i>Serum urate – interpreting levels during and between gout flares</i> - <i>Case examples</i> - <i>Pitfalls and common misinterpretations</i>
11:00 am	Tea & coffee break
11:20 am	<p>Session 2: DMARD Monitoring & Haematology – Dr Maiedha Raza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Introduction to relevant pharmacology and monitoring principles</i> - <i>Bloods for DMARDs: FBC, LFTs, U&Es, inflammatory markers</i> - <i>Reasoning: frequency of monitoring and recognising significant trends</i> - <i>Interpreting borderline abnormalities vs red flags</i> - <i>Common medication-related patterns (e.g. methotrexate, sulfasalazine)</i> - <i>Case examples</i> - <i>Acting safely within scope: when to hold medication and escalate</i>
12:40 pm	Lunch
1:40 pm	<p>Session 3: Men's & Women's Hormonal Bloods – Dr Maiedha Raza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Introduction to relevant endocrine physiology</i> - <i>PSA in men: Age-related interpretation; PSA velocity and repeat testing; Red flags vs benign causes</i> - <i>Testosterone in men: Indications for testing; Timing, repeat testing, and borderline results</i> - <i>Menopause-related bloods: FSH, LH, oestradiol – limitations of testing; Perimenopause vs menopause; When bloods are not helpful</i> - <i>PCOS-related hormonal bloods: Testosterone, SHBG, LH, FSH, FAI; Excluding differentials and metabolic risk</i> - <i>Case examples</i>
3:00 pm	Tea & coffee break
3:20 pm	<p>Session 4: GI Tests & Coagulation – Dr Maiedha Raza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Coeliac screening: tTG, total IgA, false negatives and dietary considerations</i> - <i>FIT testing: thresholds, symptomatic vs screening use, safety-netting</i> - <i>Faecal calprotectin (FCP): IBS vs IBD, borderline results and repeat testing</i> - <i>Bruising and coagulation: INR interpretation; Drug interactions and adherence issues; When bruising suggests underlying pathology</i> - <i>Case examples</i> - <i>Framework for escalation and documentation</i> - <i>Tips for communicating uncertainty and seeking senior advice safely</i>
4:00 pm	Feedback and discussion
4:15 pm	Workshop close