Incorporating Clinical Pharmacists into Primary Care Networks

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The NHS Long Term Plan outlines the ambitions for the NHS and clinical pharmacy has never been more important. Medicines are at the heart of the key themes of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory medicine and stroke care.
NHS Long Term Plan direction of travel for pharmacy

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<th>Primary care networks</th>
<th>Significant investment in primary care networks, to develop multidisciplinary community teams to deliver services</th>
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<td>Urgent care</td>
<td>A consistent offer for out-of-hospital urgent care</td>
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<td>Prevention and inequalities</td>
<td>An increasing emphasis on prevention, with a focus on obesity, smoking, tobacco, alcohol and air pollution</td>
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<td>Medicines optimisation</td>
<td>Clinical pharmacists doing appropriate structured medication reviews</td>
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<td>Antimicrobial stewardship and medicines safety in all pharmacy teams</td>
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<td>Workforce development and reform</td>
<td>Substantially expand the number of clinical pharmacists and provide/assure training</td>
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<td>Make greater use of community pharmacists’ skills and opportunities to engage patients</td>
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The aim is integrated medicines optimisation led by clinical pharmacists

Development of PCNs by July 2019 and ICSs by April 2021

**2019/20:**
- AMR National Action Plan
- GP contract Quality Improvement module on prescribing safety
- National Patient Safety Strategy – Medicines Safety Programme
- Public Health England Review into Dependence Forming Medicines
- Integrated Urgent Care – roll out of NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service
- Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework

**2020/21:**
- GP contract national service requirements including Structured Medications Review and Optimisation and Enhanced Health in Care Homes
- National Overprescribing Review report

Supported by Interim People Plan, published June 2019, and final plan due in Autumn 2019
Framework for system-wide pharmacy integration is via the PCN

**National**
- NHSE / NHSI
- HEE
- CPhO and Deputy CPhOs
- Medicines and Pharmacy Policy Directors
- DHSC
- PHE

**Regional**
- Regional Medicines Optimisation Committees
- Specialist Pharmacy Service
- Long Term Plan Implementation
- Regional Chief Pharmacists
- Pharmacy Deans
- Controlled Drug Accountable Officers

**ICS**

**Local integrated Care**
- Specialist Pharmacy Team
  - Acute
  - Mental health
- PCN Clinical Directors
- PCN Clinical Pharmacy Team
- CCG Pharmacy Team

**Patient**
- Urgent Care Pharmacy Team
- Community Pharmacy Team
Vision for the integrated clinical pharmacy team

- **All pharmacists and pharmacy technicians** supporting patients are part of the multi-professional team in a PCN
  - Clinical pharmacists are a central part of the PCN team

- **Community pharmacy teams** deliver consistent, high-quality minor illness care and support the public to live healthier lives
  - Community pharmacists have capacity to deliver more clinical care

- **Hospital and mental health pharmacists** continue to be part of specialist teams and extend their practice into primary care, including providing consultant pharmacist support

- **CCG pharmacy teams** leading on population health

- Consistent delivery of these goals will require clinical and professional leadership across the health and care system, by **Regional Chief Pharmacists** and proposed **Clinical Directors of Pharmacy and Medicines** in each ICS
Clinical pharmacists

Scheme will meet a recurrent 70% of the actual salary plus on-costs (NI and pension) of additional clinical pharmacists, physician associates, physiotherapists, and paramedics; and 100% of additional social prescribing link workers. Network can agree how the new workforce is employed and deployed across practices.

Strict additionality criteria apply: Workforce baseline agreed with CCG

Transitional year 2019/20:

- The Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice Scheme is closed.
- Reimbursement for 1 WTE Clinical Pharmacist and 1 WTE Social Prescriber. Can substitute between them with CCG agreement.
- Practices/PCNs can transfer existing clinical pharmacists on the NHS England national schemes from 1 July 2019 to claim ongoing 70% reimbursement but staff must transfer by 30 September 2019 and be a network resource.
- The Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes Scheme will come to end on 31 March 2020 – and becomes part of the PCN scheme.
- From 2020 each network will be able to draw down in a flexible way from a total reimbursement sum available to them under the scheme, calculated according to weighted population.
Role of the clinical pharmacy team in a PCN

Clinical pharmacists:

• 18-month training programme to ensure competence and confidence to consult directly with patients, working in a multi-professional team

• Supported to become independent prescribers

• Person-centred, undertaking structured medication reviews, improving medicine optimisation and safety, improving antimicrobial stewardship, supporting care homes, as well as running practice clinics

• Advocates of medicines optimisation and safety and embed principles of shared decision-making

NHSE&I and HEE have arranged a new **Primary Care Pharmacy Education Programme** to allow all clinical pharmacists in PCNs to access and complete an accredited training pathway if required

• Provide a focal point for collaborative working across the different pharmacy providers including hospital, mental health and community pharmacy

• Teams will be supervised by a senior clinical pharmacist, to support professional and career development at a network level

• Posts are clinical and person-facing

• Will receive support and supervision to allow them to do the job safely and confidently
## National Service Requirements 2020-21

1) Structured medications review and optimisation

2) Enhanced Health in Care Homes

3) Anticipatory care (requirements for high-need patients, joint with community services)

4) Personalised care

5) Supporting early cancer diagnosis

## National Service Requirements 2021-22

6) CVD prevention and diagnosis

7) Locally agreed action to tackle inequalities

- Many will include direct involvement of clinical pharmacists
- Collaboration with providers, including community services and community pharmacy, to deliver
- Will include standard national processes, metrics and expected quantified benefits for patients
- Designed with stakeholders, and part of the formal contract negotiations
- Published 2020 as part of changes to Network DES Specification
Role of the clinical pharmacy team in a PCN: Community pharmacy

- Community pharmacy will focus more on its clinical role managing the minor illness aspects of urgent care, and supporting patients to prevent ill health
- It will need to have strong links with PCN clinical pharmacists

Working with GPs to deliver their obligations under the network contract DES:
- There could be a delivery role in areas such as CVD early detection and prevention and awareness of cancer symptoms
- Some community pharmacists could be recruited to work in PCN clinical pharmacist roles, for which they would do the additional 18-month training, and which would not involve dispensing
- Community pharmacy providers could be providers of clinical pharmacists to PCNs

Key areas of focus:
- Urgent care and minor illness
- Prevention and public health
- Supporting medicines optimisation and safety
NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)

Provide fast and convenient access to clinical advice for patients
Enable local commissioners to build a consistent offer from community pharmacy

**NHS111 referral to a community pharmacist:**
- 4 pilot sites – North East, East Midlands, London, Devon – covering 1,966 pharmacies

**GP practice referral to a community pharmacist (‘pharmacy connection’ scheme):**
- Pilot sites being developed through to March 2020
- First phase: 5 sites Summer 2019: Cheshire and Merseyside STP, Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS, North East and North Cumbria ICS, Greater Manchester ICS, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire STP

**Estimate up to 6% of all GP consultations (20.4m appointments a year) could be safely transferred to a community pharmacist [data from GPFV]**

- NHS Long Term Plan signals rollout across England, subject to contract negotiations
- Initial design work underway with NHS Digital to develop 111Online referral pathway to CPCS
- CPCS national stakeholder group involves BMA and RCGP
- National evaluation is ongoing
Engage with us

Sign up for the quarterly Pharmacy and Medicines Bulletin:
https://www.england.nhs.uk/email-bulletins/pharmacy-and-medicines/

Recording of ‘Working with Pharmacy’ webinar – request access to the site via england.PCN@nhs.net

Upcoming pharmacy podcast at www.england.nhs.uk/pcn


Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway: https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway

English Deprescribing Network:
• Raise awareness and skills around deprescribing among healthcare professionals and highlight the need for it to be part of appropriate patient care
• Increase the use of shared decision-making when agreeing treatment options with patients
• Contribute to the development of a national strategy to avoid harm caused by inappropriate polypharmacy

www.sps.nhs.uk/networks/English-deprescribing-network/
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