



## HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

**Subject Heading:**

**Community Pharmacy**

**Board Lead:**

*John Atherton*

**Report Author and contact details:**

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**The subject matter of this report deals with the following priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

- Priority 1: Early help for vulnerable people
- Priority 2: Improved identification and support for people with dementia
- Priority 3: Earlier detection of cancer
- Priority 4: Tackling obesity
- Priority 5: Better integrated care for the 'frail elderly' population
- Priority 6: Better integrated care for vulnerable children
- Priority 7: Reducing avoidable hospital admissions
- Priority 8: Improve the quality of services to ensure that patient experience and long-term health outcomes are the best they can be

### SUMMARY

This report has been written at the request of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to detail the role of pharmacy. It focuses on what the government guidance is on what pharmacists are expected to deliver, their role and how this ties in with delivery of Emergency Hormonal Contraception.

Pharmacists and chemists play a key role in providing quality healthcare to patients. Working in the community, primary care and hospitals, pharmacists use their clinical expertise together with their practical knowledge to ensure the safe supply and use of medicines by patients and members of the public. The remit of pharmacy clearly goes beyond primary care, however this report predominately focuses on the role of community pharmacy as this is the service which NHS England commission via the contractual framework.

A wide range of services are commissioned through community pharmacy such as minor ailments, public health services e.g. substance misuse services, stop smoking services etc.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Integration of pharmacies into the provision of primary and public health services such as Emergency hormonal contraception access, free Condom distribution, advice on long term contraception, sign posting and referrals
- A pharmacy emergency contraception service should be commissioned, in line with the majority of boroughs in London and in line with the JSNA recommendations
- Capitalise on the opportunities within pharmacies to provide easy access to sexual health services such as Chlamydia testing, screening and preventative interventions on areas with high sexually transmitted infection rates.

### **REPORT DETAIL**

Pharmacists have to meet standards of conduct, ethics and performance set by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). They set out the behaviors, attitudes and values expected of pharmacy professionals and explain the minimum standards that all pharmacy professionals must comply with. They also inform patients and the public of the standards that they can expect from pharmacy professionals. The standards can be accessed via the link below. <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/Standards>

A community pharmacist works within the contractual framework and is responsible for controlling, dispensing and distributing medicine. The responsibility of performance management of this contract sits with NHS England. Community Pharmacies work within legal and ethical parameters such as the Pharmaceutical Regulations and the Medicines Act to ensure the correct and safe supply of medical products to the general public. They are involved in maintaining and improving people's health by providing advice and information as well as supplying prescription medicines.

Pharmacists are the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest health profession. For many patients this is the first point of call, not only for medicines expertise but also for health related issues such as minor ailments, healthy living advice and long term conditions. The public appreciate not having to make an appointment and using the service at their

convenience. The anonymity of the service allows patients to confidently access and seek advice, when they routinely might avoid asking for help.

Community pharmacists play a pivotal role in empowering people to look after their own health and can reduce health inequalities by opportunistic targeting. Their expertise is not only utilised in NHS services but also in public health and social care services. The public has most to gain from community pharmacy being integrated into wider care pathways.

The government has plans for community pharmacy development to improve health outcomes through optimising medicines use and provisions of other health services. This overall strategic direction has a clear focus on the public health agenda. Achieving this will only be possible with commissioner and patient engagement. Community pharmacies are contractually required to have a public health role. They deliver this by health promotion, sign posting, self-care advice and referrals. Anything beyond this would have to be commissioned by relevant commissioning bodies. The remit of commissioning health services such as access to free emergency hormonal contraception would be via local Public Health teams.

The access and footfall that Community pharmacy offers can make a significant contribution to primary care services.

Sexual health services should be accessible by patients in any borough regardless of where the individual resides in the UK. It may be possible to determine if Havering residents access these services in neighbouring boroughs from community pharmacies, as most of the surrounding boroughs commission this service from their community pharmacies. This information should be accessible from Public Health teams if it is collected.

*How community pharmacy can contribute:*

Key Points:

- A pharmacy emergency contraception service should be commissioned, in line with the majority of PCTs in London and in line with the JSNA recommendations
- A contraceptive service through pharmacy can be piloted in the specific wards in line with successful pilots in other PCTs and in line with the JSNA recommendation to investigate ways of improving access to contraceptive services

The JSNA recommended Decision Makers to Investigate ways of improving access to contraceptive services (such as free emergency contraception for young people, introducing a community based contraceptive service and improving access to the most effective long acting reversible contraception methods).

Community Pharmacy can make a positive contribution by working effectively with commissioners to deliver on local strategies and improving patient outcomes. Investment will be required to commission a service such as access to emergency hormonal contraception and could be a potentially progress limiting factor.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

**Financial implications and risks:** To commission any services would have financial implications for local authorities and potential CCGs.

**Legal implications and risks:** none to consider.

**Human Resources implications and risks:** none to consider

**Equalities implications and risks:** none to consider

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 1. Havering PNA



PharmaceuticalNeeds  
Assessment[1].pdf