



# County Durham & Darlington Local Pharmaceutical Committee



## Services available through our Community Pharmacies

July 2012



## *All Community Pharmacies provide these NHS services*

Dispensing of Drugs / Drug Tariff Appliances / Elastic Hosiery  
Repeat Dispensing  
Disposal of Unwanted Medicines  
Health Advice, Travel Health Advice  
Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles  
Signposting to other Healthcare Providers

## *Most Pharmacies provide these NHS services*

### **Medication Use Reviews and Prescription Interventions**

Support for people having difficulties taking their medication. MURs help patients to understand how their medicines should be used and why they have to take them, identify any problems and, if required, provide feedback to the prescriber.



### **Support for people starting to take New Medicines**



This service is designed to improve patients' understanding of a newly prescribed medicine for a long term condition, and help them get the most from the medicine. Research has shown that after 10 days, two thirds of patients prescribed a new medicine reported problems including side effects, difficulties taking the medicine and a need for further information. NMS has been designed to fill this identified gap in patient need.

### **Advice on Minor Ailments**

Including the supply of products through the Minor Ailment Scheme. Many common aches and pains can be simply treated at home without the need to consult a doctor. Patients benefit from improved access to medicines without the need to visit their GP surgery for a prescription and by allowing GPs to spend more time with patients who really need them.



### **Sexual health services**

Supply of Free Emergency Contraception  
Access to free condoms 13 – 25 yrs old  
Chlamydia screening

### **Support for Smoking Cessation**

Including the provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy

## *Some Pharmacies provide these NHS services*

### **NHS Health Checks**

This free service is available to those aged between 40 and 74 years, who have not been diagnosed with high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes or problems with their heart. The Health Check takes about 30 minutes. Blood pressure, cholesterol and lifestyle questions are checked and used to calculate the risk of developing heart disease or stroke.



### **Anticoagulant (Warfarin) Monitoring Clinic**

An anticoagulation monitoring service within community pharmacy provides patients with a local, accessible service. Their pharmacists are highly trained and skilled in the service. A service within pharmacy means that patients do not have to make inconvenient and time consuming visits to hospital.

### **Substance Misuse Services**

#### **Needle and syringe exchange services**

A supervised consumption service provides service users with regular contact with healthcare professionals and helps them access further advice or assistance by referring to other health and social care providers.



### **Alcohol Interventions**

Alcohol brief intervention services are offered by a number of pharmacies across Co Durham and Darlington. The service is offered to people aged 16 and over who present frequently with conditions/symptoms which may be associated with alcohol misuse. Where appropriate the pharmacy will offer a referral to the relevant alcohol service.

### **Pandemic and Seasonal 'Flu vaccination services**

Starting shortly (private vaccination services also provided).



### **Palliative care services**

Community pharmacists are increasingly making a significant contribution to end of life care. Support is provided to patients by advising them about their medicines and stocking medicines that people will need at the end of their life.

### **Care home services**

Services provided to care homes aim to reduce the number of errors in the administration of medicines, reduce waste of medicines and identify and remedy problems with the safe storage and handling of medicines.

### **Gluten free food supply services**

This pilot scheme in Durham and Chester le Street improves the access and efficiency of supply of gluten free products and offers support and advice to service users on their disease and the gluten free products available.

### **Out of hours services**

Community Pharmacy services on Sundays and bank holidays continue to be provided via rota arrangements and 100 hour pharmacies.

## *Non NHS Funded Services*

### **Weight management services**

Promoting healthy eating and physical activity through to provision of weight management services for adults who are overweight or obese



### **Prescription Collection and Delivery Service**

This service is provided by a large number of pharmacies; pharmacy staff will collect prescriptions from local surgeries and deliver the medication to patients' homes.

### **Blood Glucose monitoring**

Having too much glucose in your blood may indicate a risk of diabetes; pharmacists can offer a simple finger prick test that will confirm if the blood glucose level is too high. Advice is also on hand to help keep the level low or reduce it.

### **Erectile dysfunction**

A confidential and convenient service which enables patients to talk to a health care professional in private and discuss which medicines will be best for them.

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