



County Durham & Darlington Local Pharmaceutical Committee



Services available through our Community Pharmacies

November 2017



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 (in Co. Durham)

Including the provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy

Some Pharmacies provide these NHS services

Stocking of palliative care drugs

This service is the supply of palliative care medicines for patients who are terminally ill or in end of life care. Pharmacy contractors stock a list of locally agreed range of palliative medicines, ensure prompt access to these medicines (the demand for which may be urgent/unpredictable) and provide information and advice to the user/carer/clinician.



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.

Food thickener for speech and language therapy

This service is available to patients assessed by the hospital Speech and Language Therapists (SALT) as requiring food thickener. Patients access the service via a voucher which is presented to the participating community pharmacy.

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

Eligible patients entitled to NHS funded flu vaccinations can access this service via community pharmacies without the need for an appointment. The vaccinations are administered by a trained pharmacist in the privacy of a consultation room. Some community pharmacies also provide a private vaccination service.



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.

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.

Mr. Greg Burke, Chief Officer

County Durham & Darlington Local Pharmaceutical Committee
43 Brancepeth View, Brandon, Durham, DH7 8TT
Telephone 0191 378 4831 e-mail: greg.burke@durhamlpc.org.uk