

July 2017

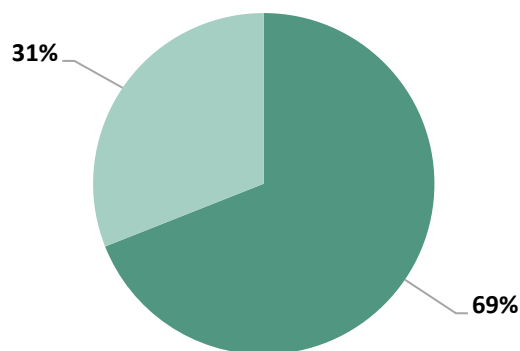
PSNC Briefing 043/17: Analysis of Minor Ailment Services in England

Following a review of Minor Ailment Service (MAS) service specifications and other associated documents, PSNC has conducted an analysis on the different MAS commissioned across England. This PSNC Briefing provides a summary of this analysis which may be of particular interest to LPCs developing proposals for MAS in their area or those who are reviewing existing MAS and supersedes [PSNC Briefing 006/15: Analysis of Minor Ailment Services in England](#) produced in February 2015.

How many LPCs have an MAS commissioned in their area?

There are currently 48 (69%) LPCs out of 70 LPCs (not including the Isle of Man) who have one or more MAS commissioned in their area.

How many LPCs currently have MAS commissioned?



■ LPCs who currently have MAS commissioned ■ LPCs who do not currently have MAS commissioned

Please note, MAS which restrict the provision of medicines relating to only urinary tract infections (UTIs) and impetigo are included in this figure. Some services operate via Patient Group Direction (PGD) only and others are restricted to specific age groups. These are all included in this analysis.

How many commissioned MAS are there currently in England?

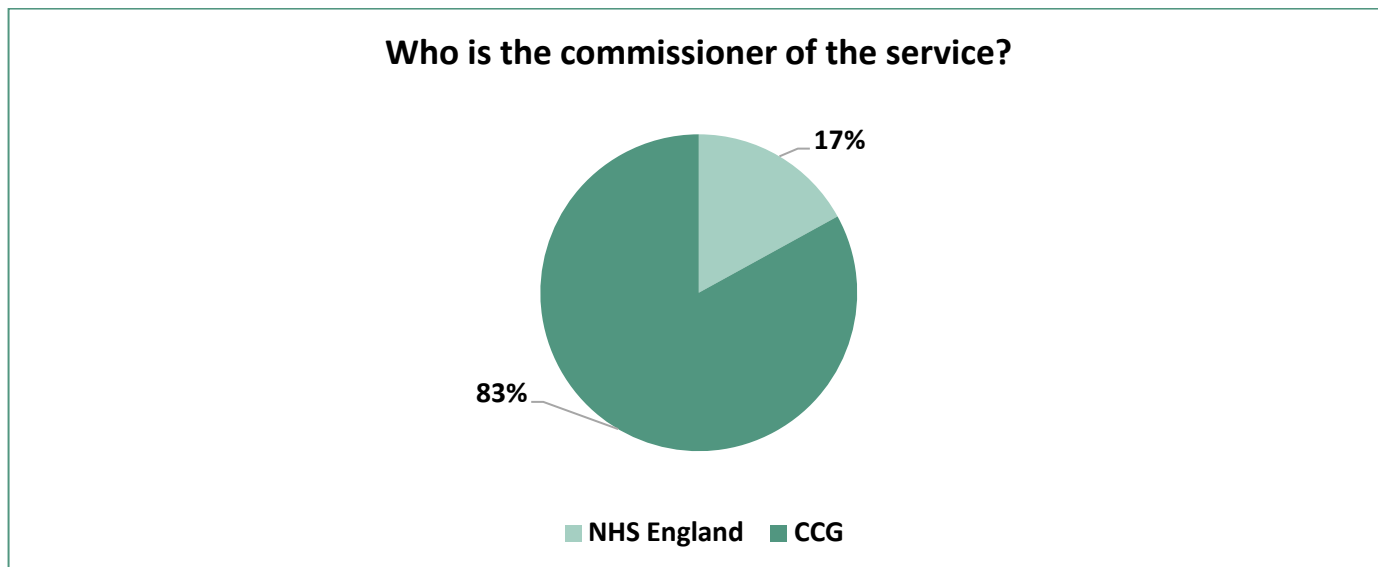
There are currently 83 MAS commissioned across England, however:

- NHS England Birmingham, Solihull & The Black Country Area has commissioned the same MAS across Birmingham LPC, Dudley LPC, Sandwell LPC, Walsall LPC and Wolverhampton City LPC; and
- NHS England North Midlands Staffordshire and Shropshire Area has commissioned **two** different MAS across North Staffordshire LPC, Shropshire LPC and South Staffordshire LPC.

Therefore, there are 75 individually commissioned MAS across England.

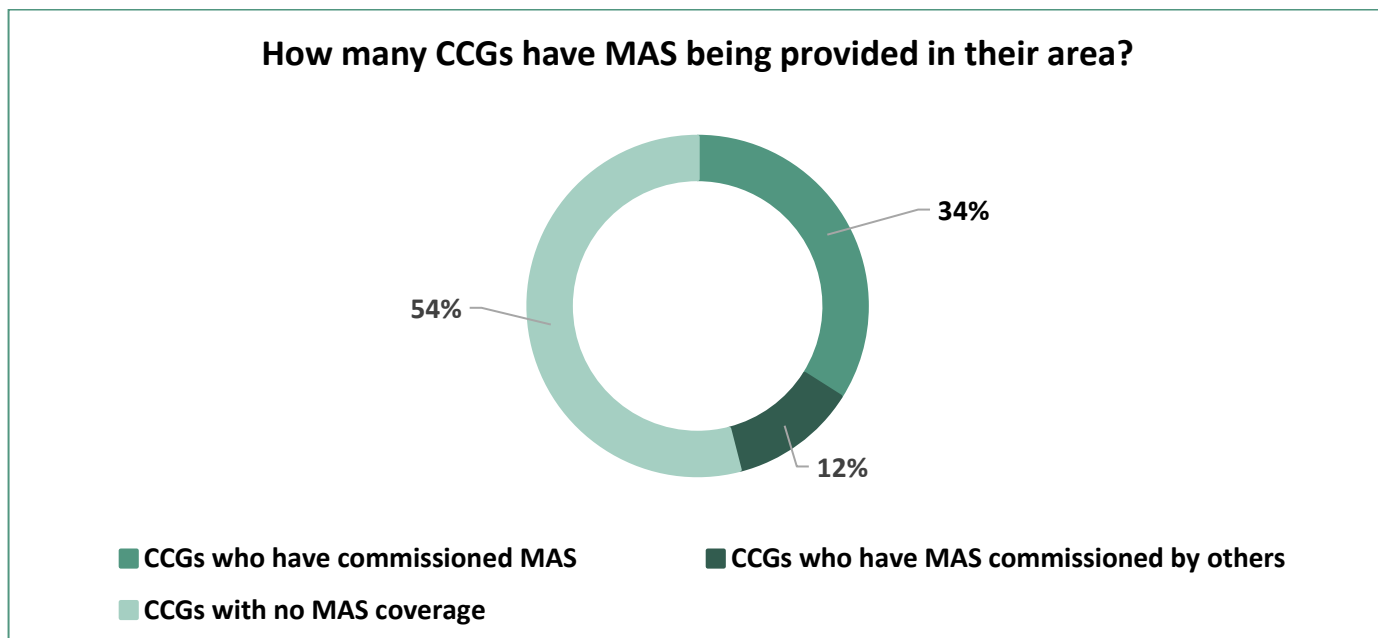
Who has commissioned the service?

Out of the 75 services, 62 (83%) of the services are commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and 13 (17%) are commissioned by local NHS England teams.



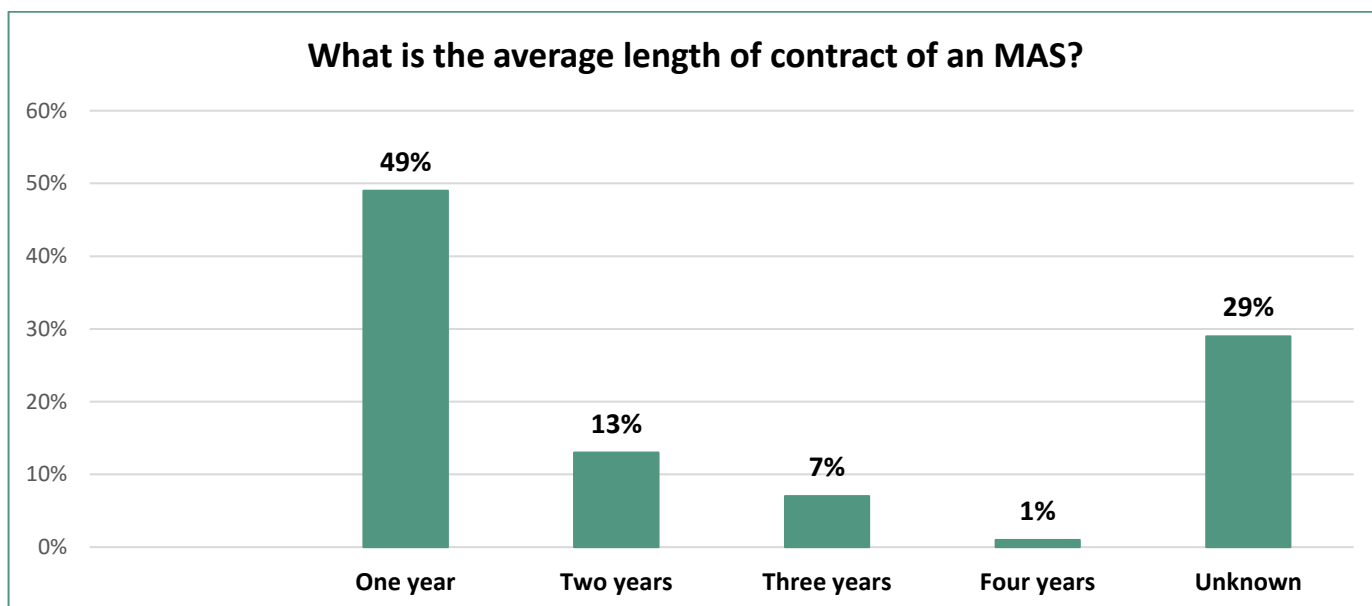
For the 62 CCG-commissioned services, there are 70 CCGs involved in commissioning these services (some services are commissioned by more than one CCG). Some CCGs may not have commissioned MAS but still have MAS being provided in their area, for example, if it was commissioned by the local NHS England team.

As shown in the chart below, 54% of CCGs have no provision of MAS in their areas at all.



Length of contracts

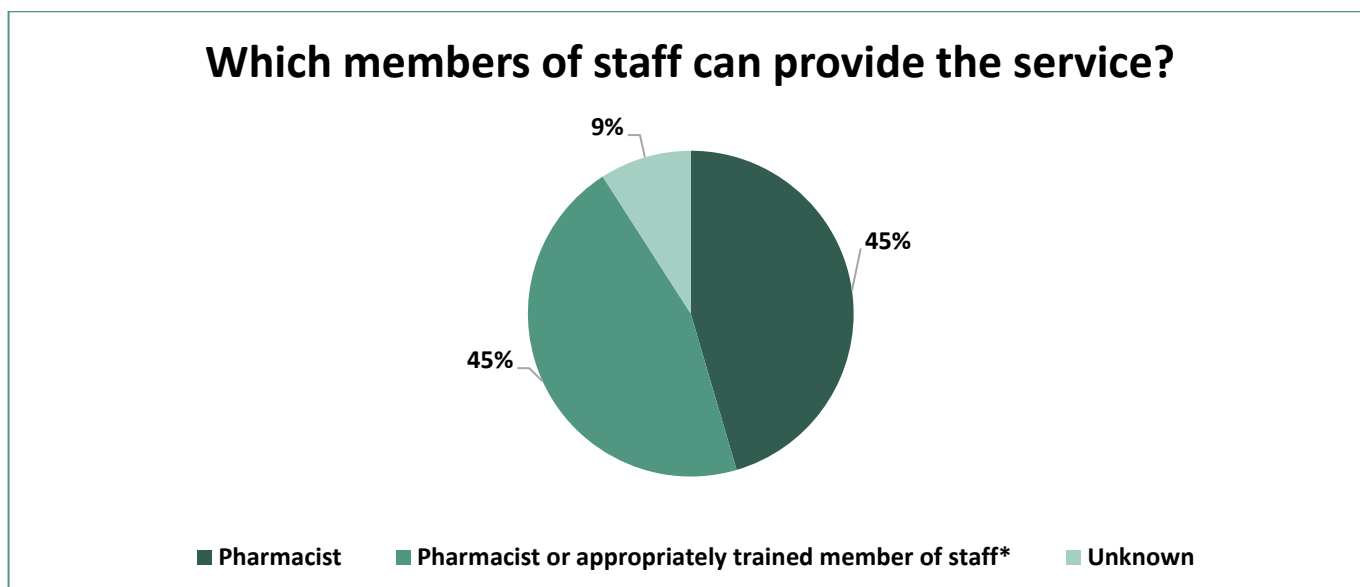
There is some variation in the length of time of service contracts ranging from one year to four years.



Services are listed as unknown if PSNC has been unable to obtain paperwork relating to the service, or if the paperwork does not make clear the length of commissioning.

Which members of staff can provide the service?

The information in this section has been taken from 68 out of the 75 commissioned services (information for 7 of the services was not available – these are listed as ‘unknown’).



Of the 34 services that require pharmacists to complete the consultation, only 8 services have PGDs associated with them. Therefore 26 services require pharmacists to supply general sale list (GSL)/ pharmacy only (P) medicines through the service.

*One service allows the pharmacist or an appropriately trained member of staff or pharmacists to offer level 1 of the service – supply of GSL/P medicines but only a pharmacist can offer level 2 – supply of a prescription only medicine (POM) under a PGD.

Indications included in the service

The information in this section has been taken from 72 out of the 75 commissioned services (information for 3 of the services was not available).

Please note, for some services, the indications included in the service were not stated so the information was obtained from the CCG website. For two of the services, products listed can be used for any of their licensed indications at licensed doses; therefore, there was no specific list of indications.

The services vary greatly in the number of indications that are covered ranging from 2 (please note this service is a separate PGD service in the area that is specifically for impetigo and UTIs) up to 43 indications.

The average number of indications which are covered per service is 22.

There are a wide variety of indications that are included on MAS across the country, with the top five being hay fever and allergic rhinitis, minor eye conditions, vaginal thrush, constipation and diarrhoea. The full list of indications with the number of schemes that include the indication are listed below:

Indication	Number of services that include this indication
Allergic rhinitis & hay fever	56
Eye conditions (dry eyes, conjunctivitis, styes)	55
Vaginal thrush	55
Constipation	54
Diarrhoea	54
Threadworm	54
Sore throat	50
Headlice	48
Temperature/fever	48
Dyspepsia (indigestion, reflux, stomach ache)	44
Teething	44
Nappy rash	43
Cough	42
Dermatitis/eczema/pruritus/skin allergies	42
Insect bites & stings	42
Athlete's foot	41
Cold sores	40
Headache	40
Mouth ulcers	39
Ear ache	37
Warts & verrucae	37
Cystitis	36
Haemorrhoids	35
Nasal congestion	34
Pain	33

Cold/flu symptoms	28
Ear wax	28
Oral thrush (babies and adults)	25
Scabies	20
Sprain, strain & muscle pain	20
Toothache	19
Fungal & yeast infections	17
Acne	13
Penile thrush	13
Colic	12
Migraine	12
URT viral infection	12
Chickenpox	11
Period pain	10
UTI	10
Impetigo	9
Vomiting	9
Soft tissue injury	8
Burns, scalds or cuts (minor)	6
Gum swelling	5
Ringworm	5
Dandruff	4
Ear infection	4
Scalp disorders	3
Travel sickness	3
Dry skin	2
Sinusitis	2
Sunburn	2
Thrush in breastfeeding women	2
Crab lice	1
Minor injuries	1
Mouth care	1
Pregnancy vitamins (folic acid)	1
Psoriasis	1

Two services permitted the provision of oral syringe 5ml droppers/dropper bottles.

PGDs

The information in this section has been taken from 72 out of the 75 commissioned services (information for 3 of the services was not provided).

Out of the 75 services, 8 of the services include PGDs for the treatment of certain indications. Please note, three of the services were PGD-only. The most popular medicines to have a PGD are chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops and fusidic acid 2% cream. However, there are a number of other medicines that are included in MAS under PGD.

The table below lists the medicines which can currently be provided under PGD in a MAS and the number of

schemes that include these medicines.

Medicine included in PGD	Number of times included in a PGD
Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops	7
Fusidic acid 2% cream	5
Chloramphenicol 1% eye ointment	4
Fusidic acid 1% eye drops	4
Nitrofurantoin 100mg S/R capsules	4
Nystatin 100,000u oral suspension	4
Trimethoprim 200mg tablets	4
Nitrofurantoin 50mg capsules	3
Timodine cream	3
Miconazole 2% cream	2
Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml	1
Clarithromycin 250mg tablets	1
Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml	1
Clarithromycin 500mg tablets	1
Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml	1
Flucloxacillin 250mg capsules	1
Flucloxacillin 250mg/5ml	1
Flucloxacillin 500mg capsules	1
Nitrofurantoin 25mg/5ml suspension	1
Ofloxacin 0.3% eye drops	1
Pivmecillinam 200mg tablets	1
Retapamulin 1% ointment	1
Sumatriptan 50mg tablets	1

Fees

Details on the range of fees that pharmacy contractors are paid for providing a MAS are included in Appendix 1. This can be accessed by LPC members by logging into the members section of the LPC website. A copy of this Briefing, which includes an appendix on fees can be located in the LPC Resources Centre.

If you have queries on this PSNC Briefing or you require more information please contact [Zainab Al-Kharsan, Service Development Pharmacist](#).