



Community Pharmacy Briefing: the long-term future of the NHS

The NHS is developing a long-term plan in exchange for a new funding settlement. Between them, our organisations represent the entire community pharmacy sector. We believe community pharmacy can do more to help people stay healthy and provide high quality services to patients and communities.

Helping patients to self-care



Up to 18% of GP consultations and 8% of A&E visits are for minor health conditions. We would like to see the wider use of pharmacies as a place to treat minor illnesses such as coughs, colds and rashes. The national commissioning of a community pharmacy minor ailments service could increase choice and access for patients, free up GP capacity, avoid unnecessary A&E visits and support the NHS 111 service.

Preventing ill-health

Pharmacies already offer services that prevent illness, including: early detection and management of blood pressure; NHS Health Checks; smoking cessation; weight management services; and the NHS Flu Vaccination Service. We would like more pharmacies to be able to offer these services.



Supporting patients with long-term conditions



It is thought that around 26 million people in England have a long-term health condition, and around 10 million have two or more. The network of more than 11,600 community pharmacies is ideally placed to support these patients to manage their conditions. We would like services to give patients with long-term conditions access to pharmacy support.

Reducing inequalities in healthcare

Pharmacies buck the inverse care law: there is a greater density of community pharmacies in the most deprived areas, per head of the population. We would like to see existing community pharmacy services upscaled and nationally commissioned, to improve the quality of healthcare available in the most deprived areas and help reduce health inequalities.



Providing value for money



In 2015, PwC examined the economic contribution of community pharmacies in England. It found that, through just 12 services, community pharmacies contributed a net value of £3bn to the NHS, patients and wider society. PwC analysis implied a ratio of nearly **£21 for every £1 invested in community pharmacy services.**

What can MPs do to help?

MPs can show their support for the sector by highlighting the role that community pharmacy can play in the future of the NHS by:

- Contacting your Local Pharmaceutical Committee for more information, and possibly arranging a visit to a pharmacy in your constituency
- Asking a question in Parliament: we have some suggested questions we can share with you and your team

For further information please contact: commsteam@psnc.org.uk