

Pharmacy role in Health and well being

1 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to briefly explain the role of pharmacy in Health and well being and to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board how we are working with this key group to improve services within Reading

2 Contractual arrangements

Every day about 1.8 million people visit a pharmacy in England. The latest information shows that 99% of the population - even those living in the most deprived areas - can get to a pharmacy within 20 minutes by car and 96% by walking or using public transport.

Community pharmacy plays a key role in delivering main line health services through the dispensing of medication to the community. They represent a local focus for health care and the new contract that has been developed tries to develop a wider role for the highly skilled professional and the wider team.

Community pharmacy is contracted by NHS England and the local commissioner is the Thames Valley Area Team. Under the contract your community pharmacy will provide the following

Essential Services:

- The Dispensing Service - the number of prescription items dispensed by community pharmacies in England in 2008-09 was 771.5 million.
- The Repeat Dispensing Service - regular repeat prescription medicines direct from your local pharmacy for an agreed period of time,
- Disposal of Unwanted Medicines -.
- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles - *pharmacy will also take part in local health promotion campaigns such as taking care in the sun and understanding the risks of long term conditions such as diabetes.*
- Signposting to other Services –
- Support for Self-Care -
- Medicines Use Reviews (MURs). (An MUR is a consultation between the pharmacist and a patient that lasts approximately 10-20 minutes. It provides an opportunity for the patient to discuss how they use their medicines and to find out more about them; and the service is designed to supplement (and not replace) the more in depth clinical reviews that are conducted at GP practices.) Almost any patient can have an MUR consultation providing they have been using the pharmacy for more than 3 months and the pharmacist feels that the patient will benefit from the review.

Enhanced services

Similar to other primary care practitioners (e.g. GPs) in addition to the core service pharmacies have the opportunity through extra elements in their contract to provide additional services, these include first medicines review,

As well as national services provided by all pharmacies, the pharmacy contract also includes Enhanced services that are commissioned at a local level by the Primary Care Trust (PCT). Local examples of these services are:

- Emergency hormonal contraception services to reduce the incidence of unwanted teenage pregnancy;
- Minor Ailments Services to reduce waiting times in GP practices;
- Stop smoking services;
- Supervising consumption of Methadone and provision of Needle Exchange Schemes for drug users.

In the new system local enhanced services can be commissioned by the Area Team, the Drugs and alcohol commissioners or the public health team. Where the services were in place prior to the re organization the funds for these services were transferred to the new commissioners.

3 Opportunities for Health and Wellbeing

1) As part of Cross Berkshire Health promotion campaigns

Across Berkshire we have similarities in key health promotion issues. The new arrangements for public health provides the opportunity for us to develop major campaigns for health promotion messages across Berkshire which will maximise the visibility of these issues by combining media, professional and community approaches, coupling this with local approaches . Part of the core services in pharmacy provides for them to deliver part of these key health promotion messages e.g. flu vaccination campaigns

2) Local enhanced services to tackle local issues

Within Reading pharmacies are commissioned to deliver a range of local services e.g. stop smoking, flu vaccination but we plan to work with pharmacist to develop opportunities for other services e.g. provision of NHS health checks, promotion of childhood immunization

3) In addition we aim to develop closer links between services and community pharmacies e.g. care of frail elderly - integrated care teams and the repeat medication services, new medication, self care and long term conditions.

4 Pharmacy Needs assessment

From 1st April 2013, every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in England will have a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area, referred to as a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA).

PNAs are used by the NHS to make decisions on which NHS funded services need to be provided by local community pharmacies. These services are part of local health care and public health and affect NHS budgets.

PNAs are also relevant when deciding if new pharmacies are needed, in response to applications by businesses, including independent owners and large pharmacy companies.

Applications are keenly contested by applicants and existing NHS contractors and can be open to legal challenge if not handled properly.

Firstly the HWB board will have a legal duty to check the suitability of existing PNAs, compiled by primary care trusts (PCTs), and publish supplementary statements explaining any changes. For example, since the boundaries of the PCT and HWB are not the same we will need to do a supplementary statement this summer.

We will need to ensure that that the NHS Commissioning Board and its Area Teams have access to their PNAs.

The HWB will need to publish its own revised PNA for its area by 1st April 2015. This will require board-level sign-off and a period of public consultation beforehand.

Failure to produce a robust PNA could lead to legal challenges because of the PNA's relevance to decisions about commissioning services and new pharmacy openings.

5 Delivery of opportunities

Within Berkshire the community pharmacists work together through the Local pharmaceutical committee, the DPH now attends this meeting to ensure that existing and opportunities for additional services are taken forward in Berkshire and also that local issues are addressed and taken forward for each Unitary Authority. This will allow us to develop common approaches to awarding of contracts, contract management and sharing of new approaches.

6 Summary

This paper briefly outlines the opportunities and duties in respect of pharmaceutical services and the approach to including this provider in our ongoing work. The HWB board is asked to note this update and agree to the approach for engaging with this professional group

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