

Job description: Community Pharmacists:

The daily life of a community pharmacist is hugely varied, drawing on a wide range of clinical and non-clinical competencies and skills. Every pharmacy is required to be operated under the control of a 'Responsible Pharmacist'. Daily tasks undertaken by community pharmacists include:

- clinical scrutiny of prescriptions;
- oversight of safe dispensing processes;
- providing patients with advice about medicines and treatments;
- provision of public health information to patients and customers and promotion of wellness;
- signposting people to other services, self-care organisations or information resources;
- assessment and treatment for minor ailments;
- professional oversight of the sales of over the counter (OTC) medicines;
- liaison with other healthcare professionals;
- clinical review services for specific patient groups in GP practices, e.g. asthma, diabetes, hypertension;
- medicines management support for GP practices, e.g. supporting practice formulary and clinical guideline implementation, repeat prescription management; and
- providing locally commissioned services such as supply of Prescription Only Medicines (POMs) under Patient Group Directions (PGDs), screening services, public health interventions and treatments.

As well as national services provided by all pharmacies, the pharmacy contract also includes services that are commissioned at a local level by the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Local Authority (LA) or NHS England. There are many different services that are operating throughout the country, reflecting the varying needs in different areas.

Examples of such services include:

- Emergency out of hours services to provide special medicines for the terminally ill;
- Emergency hormonal contraception services to reduce the incidence of unwanted teenage pregnancy;
- Screening services (e.g. for diabetes, Chlamydia, high blood pressure etc.);
- Minor Ailments Services to reduce waiting times in GP practices;
- Obesity management services;
- Stop smoking services;
- Anticoagulation monitoring and phlebotomy; and
- Supervising consumption of Methadone and provision of Needle Exchange Schemes for drug users.

Community Pharmacy England believes that a lot of these services should be offered through all pharmacies nationally and not just when they are commissioned locally. Services such as sexual health advice, obesity management, stop smoking and basic diagnostic testing should be available, like the MUR service, through all pharmacies to ensure that patients wherever they live, can receive the same level of service from all pharmacies.