

Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022

What is the PNA?

The PNA is a report on all the NHS community pharmacies in Oxfordshire. NHS England uses the PNA to work out if any changes might be needed in local pharmacy services. The Oxfordshire Public Health Team and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group also use the PNA, because they commission some services provided by pharmacies ('locally commissioned services').

Local pharmacies provide different types of services. The 'Essential' services which an NHS pharmacy must provide include the dispensing of medicines, dispensing of appliances, such as stoma bags, the disposal of unwanted medicines, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, and help for patients with their new medication. Pharmacies can choose to provide a number of 'Advanced' services, such as the 'Community Pharmacist Consultation Service' in which the pharmacist provides advice as a GP would. Community pharmacies have supplied free rapid tests (lateral flow tests) for Covid-19 and some have also provided vaccination against the Covid-19 virus.

What are the main findings of the PNA?

- Community pharmacies are providing access to essential pharmaceutical services for all parts of Oxfordshire.
- Permission has been given by NHS England to open new pharmacies in Upper Heyford in Cherwell and north Didcot in South Oxfordshire.
- In a public consultation for the PNA, respondents expressed the need for service improvement and extra choice in the centre of Oxford City. An additional pharmacy in Oxford City centre could meet this need.
- There might also be a future need in the new Valley Park suburb of Didcot, but this lies beyond the lifetime of this PNA.
- Respondents in a public consultation also said that more attention should be paid to their experiences in local pharmacies, such as disabled access and waiting times.

How many community pharmacies are there?

- There are 105 community pharmacies in Oxfordshire (as at 31.12.21)
- 23 are in Cherwell
- 27 are in Oxford City
- 19 are in South Oxfordshire
- 18 are in Vale of White Horse (plus one community pharmacy in Shrivenham links with Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Swindon-Wilts CCG)
- 18 are in West Oxfordshire.
- 2 of these 105 are internet-based pharmacies.

- In addition, there is 1 Dispensing Appliance Contractor (DAC) in Oxfordshire based in West Oxfordshire, which supplies appliances such as stoma bags.⁶ General Practices across Oxfordshire are recognised as Dispensing GPs.