

Clinical pharmacists

Description of role/core responsibilities
Indicative Agenda for Change Band 7-8a

Clinical pharmacists will have a key role in supporting delivery of the new Network Contract DES Service specifications. For the new Structured Medications Review and Optimisation requirements this will include tackling over-medication of patients, including inappropriate use of antibiotics, withdrawing medicines no longer needed through NHS-led programmes such as low priority prescribing and medicines optimisation more widely. For Enhanced Health in Care Homes residents will benefit from regular clinical-pharmacy led medicines reviews.

The following sets out the key role responsibilities⁶ for clinical pharmacists:

- a. Clinical pharmacists will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team in a patient facing role to clinically assess and treat patients using their expert knowledge of medicines for specific disease areas.
- b. They will be prescribers, or training to become prescribers, and will work with and alongside the multi-disciplinary team across a Primary Care Network. They will take responsibility for the care management of patients with chronic diseases and undertake clinical medication reviews to proactively manage people with complex polypharmacy, especially the elderly, people in care homes, those with multiple long term conditions (in particular COPD and asthma) and people with learning disabilities or autism (through STOMP - Stop Over Medication Programme).
- c. They will provide specialist expertise in the use of medicines while helping to address both the public health and social care needs of patients in the network⁷ and help in tackling inequalities.
- d. Clinical pharmacists will provide leadership on person centred medicines optimisation (including ensuring prescribers in the practice conserve antibiotics in line with local antimicrobial stewardship guidance) and quality improvement, while contributing to the quality and outcomes framework and enhanced services. Through structured medication reviews, clinical pharmacists will support patients to take their medications to get the best from them, reduce waste and promote self-care.
- e. Clinical pharmacists will have a leadership role in supporting further integration of general practice with the wider healthcare teams (including community and hospital pharmacy) to help improve patient outcomes, ensure better access to healthcare and help manage general practice workload. The role has the potential to significantly improve quality of care and safety for patients.
- f. They will develop relationships and work closely with other pharmacists across networks and the wider health system.
- g. Clinical pharmacists will take a central role in the clinical aspects of shared care protocols, clinical research with medicines, liaison with specialist pharmacists (including mental health and reduction of inappropriate antipsychotic use in people with learning difficulties) and anticoagulation.