



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

# Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2026



## Consultation Draft Easy Read



[abuhb.nhs.wales](http://abuhb.nhs.wales)



This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg



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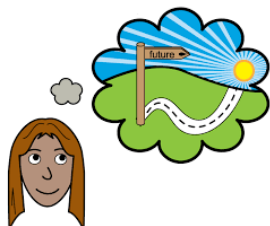
## INTRODUCTION

|                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Board must check pharmacy needs every five years in our area.</li> <li>• The last check for Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was done in Sept 2021.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The check is called a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.</li> <li>• This document explains pharmacy services in Gwent. It checks that people can get medicines and help when they need it.</li> <li>• <b>Why is this important</b>-Pharmacies help people stay well, get medicines and advice. This report helps plan safe, fair and easy to use services.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This 2026 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment will be published on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                     | <p>We are looking at:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |





- Health needs of our population.



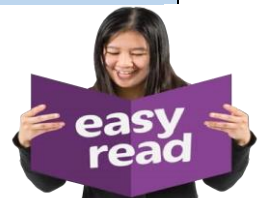
- What pharmacy services we have and where they are.
- What pharmacy services we might need in the future to meet the health needs of the local population.
- What new community pharmacies or GP dispensing practices we might need?

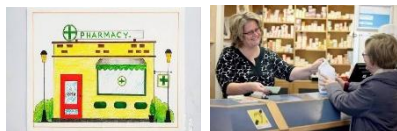


## HOW WAS THIS DONE



- The Health Board agreed to make a group. This group is called Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Steering Group.
- Members of the group talked about what each person in the group would do and how long it would take to make the plan.
- The group collected information. They looked at pharmacy services, how many people live in the area of Health Board, and what health services people need.
- The group checked what services are already there. They also looked at services in nearby areas to see what is missing.
- The group asked people what they think. The people's views were included in the draft report to share with everyone.





- Views were also gathered from community pharmacies and dispensing doctors.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (NHS) PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES IN WALES



- The NHS in Wales has three different types of pharmacy services. These are community pharmacies, dispensing appliance contractors and dispensing doctors dispensaries.
- These services are run by organisations on the pharmaceutical list held by Health Board.



**Community pharmacies** are one type.

Community pharmacies offer:



- **Essential Services** are things every NHS community pharmacy must do. This includes:
  - Giving out medicines and advice to people in their area about their medication and how to keep healthy and well





- Selling over the counter medicines.
- Safe disposal of patients returns or unused medicines.



- Help you to go to the right health service.



- **Additional Services** are extra services. Community pharmacies can choose to do these if they have been approved. Example of these services:
  - Common Ailment Service: A pharmacist can give you advice and free treatment on common illnesses like coughs, hay fever and sore throat.
  - Contraception Service: Where a pharmacist can give contraception and advice to people who need it.
  - Emergency Medicine Service: It allows a pharmacist to give you a short supply of your regular medicine in an emergency.





- **Discharge Review Service:** A pharmacist can check your medicines with you after you have been discharged from hospital, to make sure you know what to take and how to take it.



- **Pharmacist Independent Prescribing Service:** Some pharmacists have undertaken additional training and now can assess your health and prescribe medicines for certain conditions — similar to a GP.



### Some community pharmacies also provide other services for people:

- **Supervised Administration Service.** A pharmacist can help people who use drugs to come off these.
- **Smoking Cessation Service.** A pharmacist can help people to stop smoking.
- **Flu Vaccination Service.** A pharmacist can give people a flu jab to help them stop getting flu or makes it **milder** if people do catch it.







## Opening Hours of Community Pharmacies:

- Community pharmacies must be open for 40 hours every week. Sometimes they are open for longer.
- You can go to them during the week.
- You can also go to some community pharmacies on a Saturday morning.
- Some community pharmacies open all day on Saturdays and Sundays.



- Another type of pharmacy service is **Dispensing Appliance Contractors**.

- They give advice and deliver medical equipment to homes, but they do not give out medicines. They help people who need special medical tools.



- Dispensing Appliance Contractors, may choose to provide additional pharmaceutical services if they have been approved. These services include:
  - Appliance Use Review Service.
  - Stoma Appliance Customisation Service.





### Opening Hours of Dispensing Appliance Contractors:

- Dispensing Appliance Contractors must be open for 30 hours every week.



- The third type of pharmacy service is **Dispensing Doctor Dispensaries**. Dispensing doctor dispensaries are GP practices where doctors can supply medicines directly.
- But only to their own patients who have been approved to receive dispensing services.



### Opening Hours of Dispensing Doctor Dispensaries:

- **Dispensing Doctor Dispensaries** can set opening hours that meet the needs of their patients.



## ABOUT GWENT

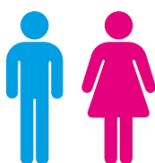


### Area, Population and Health Needs:

- Gwent has five local areas: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.
- In the Health Board, Gwent is divided into 11 local groups called Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCNs), where services like GPs, pharmacies, dentists, opticians and social services work together in the same area.



- Around 600,000 people live in Gwent. The population is getting older and more people have long-term health conditions.



- 49.02% are male and 50.97% are female.



- About one in every 1.6 people are of working age.



|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>shutterstock.com · 1954878256</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About one in every five people are over 65 years old.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                           |
|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About one in every five people are under 16.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of older people in Gwent is expected to rise quickly. By 2034, about one in four people will be aged 65 or over.</li> </ul>                                                                     |
|                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The average life expectancy at birth for the Health Board is 77.6 years for males and 81.3 years for females.</li> </ul>                                                                                   |
|                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly everyone living in our area is white and British. Only a very small number say they are not white.</li> </ul>                                                                                       |
|                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most people in our area speaks English or Welsh.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>CHRONIC DISEASES</p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Gwent the long-term conditions for people range from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cancer.</li> <li>Diabetes.</li> <li>Mental Health.</li> <li>Respiratory Conditions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



- Health factors that affect people's wellbeing across the Health Board area:
  - Smoking (including e-cigarettes).
  - Weight.
  - Sexual Transmitted Diseases.
  - Alcohol Consumption.
  - Most people who have a home have at least one car or van which can help them access pharmacy services.



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## Community Pharmacies:

- There are 125 community pharmacies in Gwent operated by 55 community pharmacy contractors.
- This is less than before. In 2021, there were 131 community pharmacies.
- Community pharmacies are found in all five local areas.
- All 125 community pharmacies provide essential services.
- All 125 community pharmacies provide common ailment service, contraception service, emergency medicines service and discharge medicine review service. In 2024/25:
  - 70,637 consultations were conducted for common ailment service.
  - 4,602 consultations were conducted for contraception service.
  - 40,458 medicines were supplied via emergency medicines service.
  - 2,494 discharge medicines reviews were conducted.







- In 2024/25, 57 community pharmacies provided a pharmacist independent prescribing service and 24,692 consultations were conducted.
- Many of the 125 community pharmacies provide other additional services for example smoking cessation service, flu vaccination service and supervised administration service.
- All community pharmacies have a room where you can talk to the pharmacist privately.
- Community pharmacies give people lots of medicines. Last year they gave people around 16 million medicines.
- Majority of community pharmacies open for 40 hours every week. Sometimes they are open for longer. As at Feb 2026:
  - 8 community pharmacies open seven days a week.
  - 22 community pharmacies open Monday to Saturday.
  - 39 community pharmacies open Monday to Friday, and for a half day on a Saturday.



- 56 community pharmacies open Monday to Friday.

- Most people can walk to a community pharmacy within 20 minutes.
- Most people can access a community pharmacy within a 10 minutes' drive.
- Most community pharmacies can collect patients' prescriptions from their GP practice.
- Most community pharmacies can deliver medication to people's homes as a private service. Some community pharmacies provide this service for free and others will charge patients.



## Meeting Health Needs:

Community pharmacies help people stay well, get medicines and advice and provide additional services. Our community pharmacies can help by:

- Supplying medicines safely.
- Supporting people to use medicines properly.
- Preventing illness getting worse.
- Providing urgent care.
- Delivering health services, for example common ailment service.
- Reviewing medicines after hospital stays.
- Supporting long-term condition management.



## Dispensing Appliance Contractors:

- There are **no** dispensing appliance contractors in Gwent. People can get their appliances from community pharmacies or from dispensing doctors or from outside of Gwent.



## Dispensing Doctor Dispensaries:

- There are 13 dispensing doctor dispensaries. All dispensaries are located on Monmouthshire Local Authority.



- Open Monday to Friday.
- Last year, dispensing doctor dispensaries give people around seven hundred thousand medicines.



### **Demand for Pharmacy Services:**

- Most prescriptions come from GP practices, and community pharmacies dispense them.
- Dentists, Pharmacist Independent Prescribers and Ophthalmic Independent Prescribers also issue prescriptions and these are dispensed by community pharmacies.
- Hospitals also create prescriptions and these are dispensed by community pharmacies.
- GP Out of Hours issue prescriptions and these are dispensed by community pharmacies.





- Community pharmacies providing additional services to patients.



### **Demand Decrease for Pharmacy Services:**

- Most prescriptions written by dispensing doctors for their own patients are given out by the doctor's practice.



## People Say

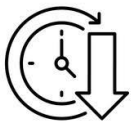


We asked people what they thought about our community pharmacies. They told us:

- Most people use a community pharmacy.
- Most people visit a community pharmacy once a month and most people go to the community pharmacy between the hours 3pm and 8pm.
- Most people use the same community pharmacy because it is close to their home or their doctor's surgery.
- Most people go to a community pharmacy to collect their medicines, or to collect them for someone else.
- People also go to a community pharmacy to buy medicines or to ask for advice.
- Most people felt able to talk to their pharmacist in private.



- Most people use a car to get to a pharmacy.



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- Most people know about the other services that community pharmacies offer, like flu vaccination service, common ailment service and smoking cessation service.
- Most people are happy with pharmacy services.
- Some people want shorter waiting times and longer opening hours.





## FROM OUR COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTRACTORS



COMPRESSION STOCKINGS



We asked our community pharmacy contractors for feedback on their experience of delivering pharmaceutical services. They told us:

- Their premises are accessible to disabled patients.
- All community pharmacies dispense NHS prescriptions. Most community pharmacies also dispense appliances.
- Over half of community pharmacy contractors felt that there were no current gaps in existing pharmacy services and did not identify a need for future pharmacy services.
- Most community pharmacy contractors stated that they had capacity to meet future demand.



## FROM OUR DISPENSING DOCTOR CONTRACTORS



We asked our dispensing doctors' contractors for feedback on their experience of delivering pharmaceutical services. They told us:

- Most dispensing doctor dispensaries are open at the same time as the GP practice.
- Some provide a delivery service.
- Most have capacity to meet an increase in demand for dispensing services.

Some contractors highlighted the need for additional services. For example:

- Late dispensing for acute prescriptions.
- Compliance aids.

## CONCLUSION

This section explains the Health Board's decision about whether there are any gaps now or in the future for pharmacy services. Through the PNA the Health Board considered the population health needs and current pharmacy services:



- What are the current health needs of the local population, for example chronic conditions?
- What other NHS services that generates prescriptions for community pharmacies to dispense?
- What current pharmacy services there are, for example:
  - The number of community pharmacies.
  - The number of dispensing doctor dispensaries.
  - What pharmacy services there are:
    - Essential services.
    - Common ailment service.
    - Smoking cessation service.
    - Flu vaccination service.
    - Emergency medicines service.
  - Opening hours.



## Current Gaps?

The Health Board identified:

- There are no missing pharmacy services in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.
- Pharmacy services are good and meet the current needs of people and patients.
- People have good access to pharmacy services.
- Services are available at different times of the day.
- People can get help even when they are not working.
- In the next five years pharmacy services will remain the same.



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#### Chronic Conditions



## Future Gaps:

Demand will increase for pharmacy services due to:

- Population is getting older.
- People will have more health conditions.
- Housing growth- new housing developments in Torfaen and Newport.

Because of the information in the PNA, the Health Board identified:

- We would like two new community pharmacies where lots of new houses are to be built in Newport and Mamhilad near Pontypool.
- We have not found any need for additional pharmacy services.





### **Future Risks:**

Future gaps could happen if:

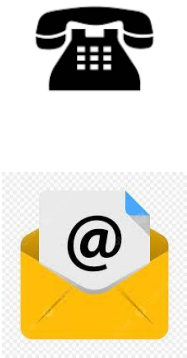
- Community pharmacies close.
- Opening hours reduce.
- GP practices stop dispensing.



This report will be used to decide on pharmacy applications and service changes.



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like you to read the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and tell us if anything is missing or needs changing.</li> <li>• Fill in a short questionnaire (takes about 5 minutes) by clicking on the link: <a href="#">Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment- Consultation – Fill in form</a></li> </ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey will close on 31 August 2026.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you want to take part in this survey and need help, please contact Primary Care and Community Services Division, Anuerin Bevan University Health Board by telephone 01495 241260 or email <a href="mailto:ABB.PrimaryCareDepartment@wales.nhs.uk">ABB.PrimaryCareDepartment@wales.nhs.uk</a></li> </ul>                                              |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for completing this consultation questionnaire.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |







- When the consultation ends on the 31 August 2026, we will look at all of the responses and see if we need to change anything in the PNA document before we publish the final version on the 1st October 2026.

