



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2026



Easy Read



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



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INTRODUCTION



- Every 5 years, the Health Board must check what pharmaceutical services people need and write a report called a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).
- Pharmaceutical services are NHS services provided by community pharmacies, appliance contractors and, dispensing doctors. They help people get their medicines, receive health advice, and improve their health and wellbeing.
- The PNA is a document that looks at:
 - What pharmaceutical services we have now.
 - What pharmaceutical services we might need in the future.
 - The health needs of the population.
- It checks that people can get medicines and help when they need it. It helps to decide if for example a new community pharmacy is needed.





- You can read the full PNA here: [FINAL OCTOBER 2026 ABUHB PNA Eng.docx](#)

HOW WAS THIS DONE

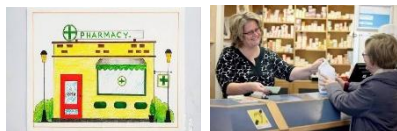


Pharmacy



- The Health Board agreed to make a group. This group was 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 pharmaceutical 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.





Questions

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure



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- Views were also gathered from community pharmacy and dispensing doctors' contractors.
- People were invited to comment on the draft PNA during a 60-day consultation period. The consultation closed on 31 August 2026.
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board approved the PNA in September 2026 to be published on the 1 October 2026.



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS) PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES IN WALES



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



Community pharmacies are one type contractor.

Community pharmacies pharmaceutical services are:

- **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.
- Helping 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 are:
 - **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 pharmacy can give contraception and advice to people who need it. Contraception is medicine to stop pregnancy.
 - **Emergency Medicine Service:** It allows a pharmacist to give you a short supply of your regular medicine in an emergency.





- **Discharge Review Service:** A pharmacy can check your medicines with you after you 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 can now give you medicines for some conditions — similar to a GP.



Some community pharmacies also provide other services for people:

- **Supervised Administration Service.** Pharmacies can help people who use drugs to come off these.
- **Smoking Cessation Service.** Pharmacies can help people to stop smoking.
- **Flu Vaccination Service.** Pharmacies can give people a flu jab to help them stop getting flu.



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 contractor is a 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 items. • 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 contractor is **Dispensing Doctors**. Dispensing doctors are GP practices where doctors can supply medicines directly.
- But only to their own patients who have been approved to receive dispensing services.

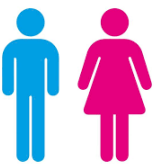


Opening Hours of Dispensing Doctors:

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



MAIN THINGS WE FOUND OUT ABOUT GWENT

	We found out: Area, People and Health Needs: - Gwent has five local areas: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. - In the Health Board, Gwent is divided into 9 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% are male and 51% are female.
	About two in every three people are of working age.

 shutterstock.com · 1954878256	About one in every five people are over 65 years old.
	About one in every five people are under 16.
	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.
	The average life expectancy at birth for the Health Board is 77 years and 7 months for males and 81 and 4 months for females.
	Nearly everyone living in our area is white and British. Only a very small number say they are not white.
	Most people in our area speak English.
	- In Gwent, the long term conditions include: - Cancer. - Diabetes. - Mental Health. - Respiratory Conditions.



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



Community Pharmacies:

- There are 125 community pharmacies in Gwent.
- 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 the common ailment service, contraception service, emergency medicines service and discharge medicine review service.

In 2024/25:

- 70,637 consultations were done for common ailment service.
- 4,602 consultations were done for contraception service.
- 40,458 medicines were given out using the emergency medicines service.
- 2,494 discharge medicines reviews were done.





- In 2024/25, 57 community pharmacies did the pharmacist independent prescribing service and 24,692 consultations were done.
- Many of the 125 community pharmacies do other additional services such as 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.
- Most of community pharmacies open for 40 hours every week. Sometimes they are open for longer. In February 2026:
 - 8 community pharmacies opened seven days a week.
 - 22 community pharmacies opened Monday to Saturday.
 - 39 community pharmacies opened Monday to Friday, and for a half day on a Saturday.



- 56 community pharmacies opened Monday to Friday.

- Most people can walk to a community pharmacy within 20 minutes.
- Most people can get to a community pharmacy in a 10 minute 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 do this service for free and others will charge patients.



Meeting Health Needs:

Community pharmacies help people get medicines and advice and do additional services to help them stay well. Our community pharmacies help by:

- Giving out medicines safely.
- Helping people to use medicines properly.
- Stopping illness getting worse.
- Giving urgent care.
- Doing health services, for example common ailment service.
- Checking medicines after hospital stays.
- Helping People with long-term conditions.



Dispensing Appliance Contractors:

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



Dispensing Doctors:

- There are 13 dispensing doctors. All dispensaries are located in Monmouthshire Local Authority.





- Open Monday to Friday.
- Last year, dispensing doctors gave people around seven hundred thousand medicines.



Need for Community Pharmacies:

- Most prescriptions come from GP practices, and community pharmacies give them out them.
- Dentists, Pharmacist Independent Prescribers and Ophthalmic Independent Prescribers also give prescriptions and these are also given out by community pharmacies.
- Hospitals also make prescriptions and these are given out by community pharmacies too.
- GP Out of Hours issue prescriptions that are given out by community pharmacies.
- Community pharmacies providing additional services to patients.

Less Need for Community Pharmacies:





- 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.

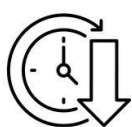




- People also go to a community pharmacy to buy medicines or to ask for advice.
- Most people felt able to talk to their pharmacist in private.



- Most people use a car to get to a community 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 community pharmacy services.
- Some people want shorter waiting times and longer opening hours.

FROM OUR COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTRACTORS



COMPRESSION STOCKINGS



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We asked our community pharmacies for feedback on how they deliver pharmaceutical services. They told us:

- Their premises are able to be used by disabled patients.
- All community pharmacies give out NHS prescription medicines. Most community pharmacies also give out appliances.
- Over half of community pharmacies that answered, felt that there were no gaps in pharmaceutical services at the moment and did not see a need for future pharmaceutical services.
- Most community pharmacy contractors said that they could meet future need.

FROM OUR DISPENSING DOCTOR CONTRACTORS



We asked our dispensing doctor contractors for feedback on their experience of doing 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 can meet future need for dispensing services.

Some dispensing doctors 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 pharmaceutical services. Through the PNA the Health Board looked at the people's health needs and current pharmaceutical services:



- What are the current health needs of the local people, for example long term conditions?
- What other NHS services give out prescriptions for community pharmacies to dispense?
- What pharmaceutical services there are, for example:
 - The number of community pharmacies.
 - The number of dispensing doctors.
 - What pharmaceutical services there are:
 - Essential services.
 - Common ailment service.
 - Smoking cessation service.
 - Flu vaccination service.
 - Emergency medicines service.
 - Opening hours.



In general, we found out that there were no current gaps:

- There are no missing pharmaceutical services in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. There are lots of different pharmaceutical services in Gwent to meet people's health needs.
- Pharmaceutical services are good and meet the current needs of people and patients.
- People are able to get to and use these pharmaceutical services.
- Services are available at different times of the day.



In general, we found out that there were no future gaps:

- More people will need pharmaceutical services in the future because:



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Chronic Conditions



- People are living longer.
- More people have long term health conditions.
- New houses are being built, so there will be more people.
- Even though more people may need community pharmacy or dispensing doctors help, we do not think any new community pharmacies or extra pharmaceutical services are needed during the time covered by this PNA.