

Ref: FOI/00071/CMICB
29 September 2022

Your Request:

1) Am I right in assuming that GP practices nationwide have been encouraged to appoint Clinical Pharmacist Grade at practice level to monitor prescribing practices.

Our Response:

1) Clinical Pharmacists are one of many additional roles available to be recruited to support GP Practices on a Primary Care Network (PCN) footprint across Cheshire & Merseyside via the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS). Some member GP Practices may also choose to employ their own Clinical Pharmacist as a member of the GP Practice Team.

Your Request:

2) If it is true as part of NHS initiative at national level, was there a wider consultation either at national or local level with the public or patient forums.

Our Response:

2) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold this information. Any public and/or patient consultation regarding the use of Clinical Pharmacists in GP Practices would be initiated nationally by NHS England, or locally by the GP Practice and/or the PCN.

Your Request:

3) Is there a clear protocol/guidance within each practice as to what the new health care member is allowed to do and how best to communicate with the patient in advance of either removing a previously prescribed medicine or limit its future dispensing

Our Response:

3) The minimum role requirements for PCN Pharmacists are set out in the 'Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service' which is publicly available on NHS England's website via the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/B1357-Network-Contract-Directed-Enhanced-Service-contract-specification-2022-23-primary-care-network-requireme.pdf>

Your Request:

4) Do they have a clinical role other than reviewing the GP/nurse clinician's prescribing practices and are they allowed to deny specific medicines being repeated with having no direct clinical input in the medical management of the patient concerned

Our Response:

4) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold this information – this would be determined by the PCN/GP Practice employing the Clinical Pharmacist.

Your Request:

5) Are they able to access confidential medical information about the patients with whom they have no direct dealings by way of scanning through hospital reports and others without explicit consent being given by the patients

Our Response:

5) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold this information – this would be determined by the PCN/GP Practice employing the Clinical Pharmacist.

Your Request:

6) As I said earlier introduction of clinical pharmacist at practice level is hindering patient access to the GP or Nurse Clinician, while there is vagueness of their true role in patient's clinical management

Our Response:

6) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold any information in response to this statement. However, if you have specific concerns regarding the role of Clinical Pharmacists at GP Practices you may wish to raise this with the GP Practice directly. Alternatively, should you wish to raise your concerns to NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB this can be done via the contact details provided on our website via the following link:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/contact/complaints/>

Your Request:

7) Do you know what percentage of GP practices within the local PCT/CCG have such roles established and how successful are they in monitoring the prescribing practices as a way of effective prescribing and cost saving exercise

Our Response:

7) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on the percentage of member GP Practices that have employed clinical pharmacist roles, or any information on their effectiveness. This information would be held by the PCN/GP Practices themselves.

Your Request:

8) Are there any reports of “critical incidents” directly as a result of either withdrawal or denial or replacement of a different medicines in place of regular prescriptions carried out by the clinical pharmacists

Our Response:

8) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on reports of 'critical incidents' relating to employed clinical pharmacist roles within GP Practices. This information would be held by the PCN/GP Practices themselves.

Your Request:

9) Is there any local audit carried out about the success or failure of the new roles within GP practices in the region

Our Response:

9) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently undertake any local audit of the success/failure of Clinical Pharmacist roles within GP Practices.