

Kent Stakeholders

By email

NHS England
18-20 Massetts Road
York House
Horley
RH6 7DE

Email: [Sarah Macdonald14@nhs.net](mailto:Sarah.Macdonald14@nhs.net)

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Tel: 0113 82 49236

Dear colleague

Re; Expansion of Clinical Pharmacist in General Practice to benefit more Kent patients

I am writing to let you know that patients in your area will soon be able to benefit from expert advice from a clinical pharmacist when they visit their GP surgery, thanks to the expansion of a national scheme to support a growing number of clinical pharmacists to help with patients' medication and treatment.

NHS England has announced that more patients in east Kent, north Kent and west Kent will benefit from having pharmacists working in local GP surgeries, as part of a further roll out of our national Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice scheme.

This is in addition to existing schemes in Medway and other parts of east Kent, where clinical pharmacists are already working in local GP practices to support patient care, following support the practices received from NHS England to include this new role as part of their practice teams.

NHS England's national General Practice Forward View (www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/) committed to over £100m of investment to support an extra 1,500 clinical pharmacists to work in general practice across England by 2020/21.

Clinical pharmacists work as part of the general practice team by providing expertise on day-to-day medicine issues and consultations with patients directly. This includes providing extra help to manage patients' long-term conditions, such as helping to manage a patient's high blood pressure earlier and more effectively to prevent cardiovascular disease; advice for patients on taking multiple medications; and offering better access to health checks.

Having clinical pharmacists working in GP practices means GPs can focus their skills where they are most needed, for example on diagnosing and treating patients with complex conditions. This helps GPs manage the demands on their time and ensures that patients can see the health professional that best suits their needs and can get quicker access to clinical advice.

Six GP practices in east Kent (in Dover, Deal, Folkestone, New Romney and Dymchurch) and ten GP practices in the Medway area are already using clinical pharmacists to support patient care, following a pilot clinical pharmacist scheme announced nationally in 2015.

Jennifer Bostock, Director of Nursing at Invicta Health, who has helped lead the existing pilot clinical pharmacist scheme in the east Kent area, explains the benefits of having a clinical pharmacist to support patients:

“Having qualified clinical pharmacists working as part of the practice teams within these surgeries is helping to improve the level of service they can provide to their patients and to make the best possible use of the clinical skills of practice staff.”

“In particular we are very proud of the work with complex care home patients to improve their care and prevent hospital admissions.”

In April 2017, NHS England announced that some GP practices in west Kent (including in the Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks areas) and GP practices in Thanet would also benefit from the first wave of the roll out of the Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice Programme.

It has now been confirmed that more GP practices in east Kent, north Kent and west Kent will benefit from the second wave of the programme’s roll out. Details of the additional GP practices that it is planned will benefit from the scheme are detailed below.

Dartford and Gravesham area

The local federation of GP practices in the Dartford and Gravesham area will be working to support clinical pharmacists to work across the seven local practices listed below:

- Orchard Practice, Dartford
- The Oaks Partnership, Swanley
- Swanscombe Health Centre, Swanscombe
- Old Road West Surgery, Gravesend
- White Horse Surgery, Northfleet
- The Shrubbery and Riverview Park Surgery, Northfleet
- The Cedars Surgery, Swanley

Swale

Clinical pharmacists will be working across eight GP practices in Swale:

- Grovehurst Surgery, Sittingbourne
- Memorial Medical Centre, Sittingbourne
- Milton Surgery, Sittingbourne
- The Chestnuts Surgery, Sittingbourne

- The Om Medical Centre, Sheerness
- Dr Chandran's surgery, Sheerness Health Centre
- St George's Medical Centre, Sheerness
- The Meads Medical Practice, Sittingbourne

Invicta Health in east Kent

Invicta Health, a community interest company owned by GPs in east Kent, will be supporting more GP practices in east Kent to use the skills of clinical pharmacists to support patient care following work they have already done with some local practices as part of an existing pilot project. Nine GP practices in east Kent are set to benefit from the further roll out of the clinical pharmacist in general practice scheme that has been announced:

- The Manor Clinic, Folkestone
- Northgate Medical Practice, Canterbury
- Martello Medical Centre, Dymchurch (has already benefited from the existing pilot scheme in east Kent)
- Church Lane Surgery, New Romney (has already benefited from the existing pilot scheme in east Kent)
- Oak Hall Surgery, New Romney
- Orchard House Surgery, Lydd
- Sandgate Road Surgery, Folkestone
- Faversham Health Centre, Faversham
- Canterbury Health Centre, Canterbury

Herne Bay

Four GP practices in Herne Bay will be looking to use a clinical pharmacist to support patient care across their surgeries:

- Park Surgery
- St Anne's Group practice
- Coach House Surgery
- William Street Surgery

Invicta Health will also be supporting this scheme in Herne Bay, building upon the work they have already started doing with some other east Kent practices and clinical pharmacists.

West Kent

The federation of local GP practices, the West Kent Health Federation, will be working to support clinical pharmacists to work in the ten GP practices listed below:

- Headcorn Surgery, Headcorn
- Amherst Medical Practice, Sevenoaks
- Westerham Medical Practice, Westerham
- St James Medical Centre, Tunbridge Wells
- Marden Medical Centre, Marden
- Hildenborough Medical Group, , Hildenborough

High quality care for all, now and for future generations

- Tonbridge Medical Group, Tonbridge
- The Orchard Medical Centre, Maidstone
- West Malling Group Practice, West Malling
- Phoenix Surgery, Burham

Further information about NHS England's Clinical Pharmacist in General Practice programme is on our website at www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/workforce/cp-gp .

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Macdonald." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sarah Macdonald
Director of Commissioning
NHS England South (South East)