

Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Pathfinder

January 2024 - update

West Yorkshire ICB is participating in the NHSE [Independent Prescribing Pathfinder \(IP Pathfinder\) programme](#). The programme has been introduced by NHSE to inform the commissioning framework required to introduce independent prescribing into NHS community pharmacy services. The IP Pathfinder will explore how community pharmacists and their teams can deliver an integrated clinical service aligning prescribing activity with general practice and the population needs of local communities.

This national IP Pathfinder programme provides the opportunity to influence the future of independent prescribing within NHS community pharmacy and to test the different ways that independent prescribing in community pharmacy will benefit patients and the public.

Developing the clinical skills of pharmacists as prescribers and pharmacy technicians with enhanced clinical skills to deliver clinical services is a key strategic aim for NHS England to create access for patients and enable capacity across primary care.

Benefits to Patients

- Supports patients to have their primary care needs met more directly with fewer contacts in the health care system.
- Enables more episodes of care to be completed within community pharmacy.
- Supports access to primary care.
- Greater choice of where to access prescribing services.
- Extended hours access from some community pharmacy sites.

Benefits to General Practices

- Supports Modern General Practice Access models signposting and care navigating patients to alternative Primary and Community service provision as appropriate to their needs.
- Supports general practice to continue to grow the number of referrals of patients with minor illness care navigated to community pharmacy (entry route via Pharmacy First referral).
- Reduces the number of patients referred back to general practice by community pharmacy for management as more episodes of care can be completed within community pharmacy by the pharmacist independent prescriber.
- Will enable the IP pharmacy sites to develop referral protocols for patients linked to clinical areas beyond minor illness (see below for clinical model details) supporting capacity within general practice.
- Greater utilisation of skill-mix with commissioning of prescribing services through community pharmacies enabling general practice to see more patients with complex needs.

Benefits to Community Pharmacy

- Utilising the clinical skills and qualifications of the community pharmacists and developing the pharmacist workforce
- Greater job satisfaction for pharmacists – improved recruitment & retention
- Enable community pharmacy to provide suitable experience and support other community pharmacists in becoming independent prescribers.

WY IP Pathfinder Steering Group

January 2024

Version 2

Collaboration between General Practice and Community Pharmacy will be a key factor in developing, implementing, and delivering a successful community pharmacy IP Pathfinder. The community pharmacies selected as WY IP Pathfinder sites will be in contact with their local general practice(s) over the next few weeks to discuss the IP Pathfinder in greater detail.

This will be an iterative process and require engagement and involvement from general practices, pharmacies and the ICB to realise the longer-term benefits. This is a pathfinder programme which differs to the roll out an existing service or pilot of a new service. Using independent prescribing as an NHS service within community pharmacy is novel and there will at times be ambiguity, and issues and barriers to overcome. It requires working together, in partnership, to seek answers and solutions and overcome challenges. It is recognised that some of the practical elements that will be part of the pathfinder programme will require continuous development and this learning is being fed into the national evaluation.

We hope that despite all the current challenges within the whole of primary care this opportunity is recognised and realised through working together to influence and inform future commissioning that benefits our patients, general practice, and community pharmacy.

IP Pathfinder key information

- The key purpose of the IP Pathfinder programme is to develop, implement and learn. The volume of prescribing from the IP sites will, certainly initially, be relatively low.
- The IP Pathfinder sites are aiming to go live with at least one clinical model in Feb 2024 with the programme running until at least December 2024.
- Details of the community pharmacies selected to be part of the IP Pathfinder in West Yorkshire are listed in appendix 1.
- Close working with local general practices is essential. The IP Pathfinder Pharmacist Independent Prescriber (PIP) has time allocated to engage and work with their local general practices in setting up and implementing the IP Pathfinder.
- The IP Pathfinder will ensure appropriate communication pathways between the IP Pathfinder sites and the relevant general practice(s) enabling access to relevant patient records, tests/bloods and post IP Pathfinder consultation messaging including feedback of any newly or altered prescribed medicines.
- Access to clinical support, Communities of Practice for each clinical area and peer support networks will be provided for the PIPs to ensure they are not practising in isolation.
- All the PIPs in the IP Pathfinder are existing pharmacist independent prescribers who will be working within their scope of practice following local and national guidance.
- The oversight of governance and assurance processes for the Pathfinder is held by WY ICB through the WY IP Pathfinder Steering Group (accountable to the WY Medicines Optimisation Committee) with members from community pharmacy, general practice, ICB Medicines Optimisation, ICB Primary Care, trust pharmacist and ICB pharmacy. The steering group provides strategic oversight, governance, and tactical support for the WY Pathfinder Programme. This includes surveillance and monitoring of the IP Pathfinder in WY.
- NHSE are overseeing the evaluation of the IP Pathfinder in all 42 of the ICBs.

IP Pathfinder Clinical models in West Yorkshire

Extended Minor Illness

Broaden the range of minor conditions that can be treated and managed to resolution within community pharmacy whilst following local and national guidance.

Community Pharmacy Enhanced Support for Quality, Optimised and Safer Prescribing (QOSP)

Enable the community pharmacy to contribute to quality, optimised and safer prescribing by enabling relevant changes to prescriptions. Following identification of a suitable QOSP medicines optimisation intervention from the pharmacy held Patient Medication Record or referral from another pharmacy, general practice, PCN pharmacy team, the IP will check for suitability and undertake a consultation following the principle of shared decision-making to support patient understanding and acceptance of any changes made.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

Expanding the community pharmacy role within CVD detection, prevention and management through treatment initiation and optimisation following hypertension case-finding, targeted CVD case finding and assessment and supporting patients with non-optimised lipids and statin intolerance.

Questions or queries about the IP Pathfinder to Stacey Gill, IP Pathfinder Project Support stacey.gill3@nhs.net or Ruth Buchan, Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead, ruth.buchan2@nhs.uk

Appendix 1 - West Yorkshire Pathfinder Site Information

WY ICB Locality	IP Pathfinder Name	IP Pathfinder Address
Kirklees	Dewsbury Pharmacy	Healds road, Dewsbury, WF13 4HT
Calderdale	Luddendenfoot Clinic Pharmacy	Kershaw Drive, Luddendenfoot, HX2 6PD
Bradford District & Craven	Kirkgate Pharmacy	60 Kirkgate, Bradford, BD1 1TQ
Bradford District & Craven	Daynight Pharmacy	101 Killinghall Road, Bradford, BD3 8AB
Bradford District & Craven	Well Keighley (Scott Street)	47 Scott Street, Keighley, BD21 2JH
Leeds	Pharmacy Plus Health (Alwoodley)	1 Saxon Mount, Saxon Mount, Leeds, LS17 5DT
Leeds	Midway Pharmacy (Middleton)	23 Middleton Park Circus, Leeds, LS10 4LX
Wakefield	Midway Pharmacy (Horbury)	Cluntergate, Horbury, Wakefield, WF4 5AF
Calderdale	Brighouse Pharmacy	24 Church Lane, Brighouse, HD6 1AT
Leeds	The Care Pharmacy (Leeds)	26 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS7 1AB

