Please contact

Email: [england.gmtop@nhs.net](mailto:england.gmtop@nhs.net)

25/04/2023

Dear Community Pharmacists

**Re: Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme**

Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) has submitted an Expression Of Interest (EOI) to NHSE to participate in a pathfinder process for Independent Prescribing (IP) in Community Pharmacy. As a pathfinder we will be looking to test out and evaluate the requirements and processes behind IP with community pharmacy. Some of this might include IT requirements, governance and prescribing via EPS, for instance. The aim of the community pharmacy IP pathfinder programme is to establish a framework for the future commissioning of NHS community pharmacy clinical services, incorporating independent prescribing, for patients in primary care. We will hear back in May 2023 if we have been successful with our EOI.

Independent prescribing is an exciting development for community pharmacy and from 2026 new pharmacy registrants will have an IP qualification. We are aware that some of you already have an IP qualification and others are planning on undertaking the training, which is great news. We are now looking for community pharmacies to be part in the pathfinder program with us; to help shape the future for services with all community pharmacies. We are inviting you to submit an EOI, with no commitment, to take part at this stage.

We have proposed three services as part of the ICB submission, and you can express an interest in either or both services:

1. Minor Illness (core service)
   * Referrals and walk-in
   * Linked to CPCS
   * Min 15 hours per week dedicated time
2. Cardiovascular disease (additional)
   * Referrals and walk-in
   * Linked to Hypertension case-finding service
3. Respiratory disease (additional)
   * Referrals and walk-in
   * Referrals from Acute respiratory Infections hub (ARI) or practices
   * Including inhaler technique, medicines optimisation linked to care plans

All community pharmacies in Greater Manchester are invited to submit an EOI; you will need to complete the electronic form here: [https://forms.office.com/e/S2yV1mtY5p](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fe%2FS2yV1mtY5p&data=05%7C01%7Ckenny.li%40nhs.net%7C1d29b41a2de344f1bcaa08db44f906f3%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638179608698410384%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VYdtDZltQ6lE5IvKizlH8ekmuvpOGn1aLNWmKriz4Rg%3D&reserved=0)

The deadline for submission is close of play on **Tuesday 9th May 2023**. The electronic form will have to be submitted in one sitting and so for ease we have included a guidance and a copy of the submission form in Microsoft Word. We will also accept one submission from organisations of multiple pharmacies. We will notify applicants in late May to early June if they have been successful.

**Pathfinder expression of interest process**

Community Pharmacy (CP) EOI

* Webinar
* FAQs
* Each CP to complete an electronic EOI form before the deadline.

April/May 2023

ICB Moderation

* ICB will access submissions and seek clarity from the CP as and when required.
* ICB will collaborate with regional pharmacy integration lead.
* Submissions will be reviewed against IP pathfinder criteria.

May 2023

Notification

* ICB will consider number of submissions against budget allocation from NHSE.
* ICB will notify each CP of the outcome.
* Collaborative working with successful sites, LPN, LPC and ICB will commence.

May/June 2023

**Funding**

The IP Pathfinder services will be commissioned by the ICB using a local enhanced (LES) service level agreement aligned to the programme objectives and enabling evaluation.

Funding will be provided to cover the clinical time of the pharmacist IP and support to deliver the programme. Further details will be available from NHSE soon. Funding will also cover the cost of any necessary IT capabilities.

**Training**

We are seeking to involve existing IP trained pharmacists to deliver the service as this will ensure the evaluation can be undertaken in the timeframe. There will be additional training requirements, funded by the ICB, for each service and we are working with providers to deliver this.

Pharmacies with no directly employed IP, can still participate by sourcing a pharmacist IP specifically to provide the service i.e., a GP/PCN pharmacist on a sessional basis. The consultations and prescribing must be conducted in the community pharmacy and not in general practice, however. The IP pharmacist must also have a contractual relationship with the community pharmacy.

**Evaluation**

The evaluation process will take the form of interviews, surveys, and data analysis. A funding allocation will be made to recognise pharmacies for their time to partake in these activities. The patient experience and perspective of community pharmacy independent prescribing will also be an important part of the evaluation. Participating community pharmacies must also fully participate in the evaluation of the programme.

Please find attached a FAQs document. For further information you can contact me at [england.gmtop@nhs.net](mailto:england.gmtop@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely

A picture containing text

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**Alison Scowcroft**

**Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead**

**NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care**

**Guidance on completing the Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme EOI form**

*Please use the MS Word version of this form to draft the Expression of Interest form. Once the EOI is ready, it should be submitted via the online submission form. Note that the online submission has to be done in one sitting and cannot be saved or edited once submitted. It is advised to use the MS Word document to develop your EOI.*

Name of primary contact (If submitting as part of an organisation please provide the organisation lead’s details here):

Designation of primary contact:

Telephone number:

Email:

Pharmacy Address including postcode (include all premises if submitting for multiple pharmacies in one organisation):

Name of Independent Prescriber/s (If known at this stage):

Registration number of Independent Prescriber/s (If known at this stage):

Which service is your EOI for (tick all that apply)

* Extension of Pharmacy First, Minor Ailment Scheme
* Respiratory service

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| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **EOI guidance and response** |
| 1. **How will you provide a pharmacist IP/s to deliver the service/s?** | *Does your pharmacy directly employ a pharmacist IP?*  *If not, how will you access a pharmacist IP to provide the service?*  *Note: the IP must already be qualified.*  *How many hours and sessions would the IP be able to work for the pathfinder programme?* |
| 1. **How will you support your IP/s to participate in peer support groups and Multi-Disciplinary Team working to ensure clinical safety?** | *As detailed in the Prescribing Governance section of ‘*[*A Competency Framework for all Prescribers*](https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Prescribing%20Competency%20Framework/RPS%20English%20Competency%20Framework%203.pdf?ver=mctnrKo4YaJDh2nA8N5G3A%3d%3d) *(RPS), note 10. Prescribing as a team’*  *10.1. Works collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary team to ensure that the transfer and continuity of care (within and across all care settings) is developed and not compromised.*  *10.2. Establishes relationships with other professionals based on understanding, trust and respect for each other’s roles in relation to the patient's care.*  *10.3. Agrees the appropriate level of support and supervision for their role as a prescriber.*  *The IP should access clinical support with a designated senior clinician within a PCN or ICB footprint.*  *The ICB will provide networks and peer support groups for the IP.* |
| 1. **How will you ensure the competences for the pharmacist IP/s to prescribe within the clinical areas of the service?** | *Give details on the IPs competencies to prescribe as part of the service they are expressing an interest for. If not, how will they gain the competences. Are they prescribing currently or how long since they last prescribed? Describe how CPD relating to prescribing is maintained.* |
| 1. **How will potential clinical risk be mitigated for the prescribing and dispensing process within the community pharmacy setting?** | *How will the prescribing be kept separate from the supply? How will the clinical check for the dispensing process be carried out for prescriptions written in the same pharmacy? Guidance can be found in in this document: In practice:* [*Guidance for pharmacist prescribers (pharmacyregulation.org)*](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/in-practice-guidance-for-pharmacist-prescribers-february-2020.pdf) |
| 1. **How will you ensure Indemnity insurance covers the service?** | *Indemnity insurance will have to cover IP within a service. This maybe individual insurance, premises insurance or a combination of both.* |
| 1. **How will you meet the standards for the premises?** | *Please see the standards for premises document attached for further information.* |
| 1. **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your submission?** |  |

**Declaration:**

Is this EOI supported by your superintendent pharmacist? YES/NO

Will you support the evaluation process? YES/NO

**Please use online form to submit this EOI:**

[https://forms.office.com/e/S2yV1mtY5p](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fe%2FS2yV1mtY5p&data=05%7C01%7Ckenny.li%40nhs.net%7C1d29b41a2de344f1bcaa08db44f906f3%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638179608698410384%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VYdtDZltQ6lE5IvKizlH8ekmuvpOGn1aLNWmKriz4Rg%3D&reserved=0)

**Deadline for submission is close of play Tuesday 9th May 2023.**