

# West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

## Frequently asked questions

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### Question: What is the purpose of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)?

Answer: The PNA assesses and sets out how the provision of pharmaceutical services can meet the health needs of the population of the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board's area for a period of up to three years.

### Question: Who uses the PNA?

Answer: A PNA is used by NHS England, the Integrated Care Board (ICB), and local authorities to make commissioning decisions and ensure that pharmaceutical services are targeted to areas of health need.

### Question: What are the key findings of the PNA?

Answer: As of January 2025, there are 63 pharmacies in West Northamptonshire, and the main conclusion is that there are currently no gaps in the provision of pharmaceutical services.

### Question: What are the essential services provided by pharmacies?

Answer: Essential services include dispensing of prescriptions, disposal of unwanted drugs, promotion of healthy lifestyles, signposting, and support for self-care.

### Question: What are advanced services provided by pharmacies?

Answer: Advanced services include the new medicine service, stoma appliance customisation, appliance use review, seasonal influenza adult vaccination service, community pharmacist

consultation service, pharmacy first, pharmacy contraception service, hypertension case-finding service, stop smoking service, and lateral flow device (LFD) services for eligible patients.

### Question: What are the recommendations of the PNA?

Answer: The PNA recommends developing a comprehensive engagement strategy before the next assessment to ensure better engagement and information collection.

### Question: How was the PNA developed?

Answer: The PNA was developed by the Health and Wellbeing Board with input from key stakeholders and a steering group to ensure it meets the needs of the local population. The development also included engaging with residents and visitors to local pharmacies, as well as local pharmacies themselves.

### Question: What are the main sources of information for the PNA?

Answer: The main sources of information include the 2021 Census, West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Fingertips Health Profiles, Office for National Statistics, and NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board. The engagement with residents and stakeholders also contributed.

### Question: What is the current provision of pharmaceutical services in West Northamptonshire?

Answer: There are 63 pharmacies, three dispensing appliance contractors, and 16 dispensing practices providing the full range of essential services.

### Question: What are the challenges faced in the engagement process for the PNA?

Answer: Challenges include capacity issues across the system, leading to poor engagement and limited information from pharmacies, contractors, dispensing practices, and distance getting to pharmacies.