



IMPORTANT: Warwickshire County Council Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

Background: In 2009 all PCTs were required to prepare a PNA, for publication by February 2011. The PNA was intended to present an accurate picture of pharmaceutical service need and provision, reviewing access, range and adequacy of services and choice of provider. The PNA was also expected to summarise areas where provision was deemed to be inadequate, in other words to highlight “pharmaceutical needs”.

Warwickshire County Council has commissioned the services of NHS Arden Commissioning Support to help develop their new PNA. The publishing deadline is April 2015. The main aim is to establish and review the current NHS community pharmacy services provided to the population, ensuring that current and future services are of good quality, easily accessible for patients, meet local health and pharmaceutical needs and provide good use of NHS financial resources. The LPC, LMC and WCC are actively involved in the multidisciplinary working group which is developing the PNA.

Why is this important to me? A pharmaceutical needs assessment is an important commissioning tool. In view of the significant decisions that will be made with reference to the PNA, it is vital that the PNA is accurate and robust. Contractors will recognise this and will be aware of the dangers of using incomplete or inaccurate PNAs when making important commissioning decisions. For this reason the active co-operation of contractors is essential to ensure that all information, including details such as name, contact details, hours of opening and service profile are supplied and checked for accuracy. **Contractors will be asked to provide this information within the next month or so.**

What is the current position? Responsibility for the PNA has transferred from PCTs to Health & Wellbeing Boards (HWBs). The NHS regulations of April 2013 state that HWBs must produce their first PNA by no later than 1st April 2015. In order to reflect local changes, PNAs must be updated every three years or earlier, if, any significant changes in pharmaceutical service provision occur within the PNA boundary. PNAs are used to guide decisions on which NHS funded services need to be provided by local community pharmacies and other providers. The PNA is also an essential tool for deciding if new pharmacies are needed and allowed to open when dealing with applications for entry onto the pharmaceutical list.

What information will the PNA contain?

The content of PNAs is set out in Schedule 1 to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. The PNA must contain:

- A statement of the pharmaceutical services provided that are necessary to meet needs in the area;
- A statement of the pharmaceutical services that have been identified by the HWB that are needed in the area, and are not provided (gaps in provision);
- A statement of the other services which are provided, which are not needed, but which have secured improvements or better access to pharmaceutical services in the area;
- A statement of the services that the HWB has identified as not being provided, but which would, if they were to be provided, secure improvements or better access to pharmaceutical services in the area;
- A statement of other NHS services provided by a local authority, the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England), a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) or an NHS Trust, which affect the needs for pharmaceutical services;
- An explanation of how the assessment has been carried out (including how the consultation was carried out);
- A map of providers of pharmaceutical services.

Warwickshire's PNA will be informed by, and aligned to, the County's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This is the overarching document which analyses the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population to inform the commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services. The JSNA aims to establish a shared, evidence based consensus on the key local priorities across health and social care and is used to develop Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The LPC representative on the PNA Working Group is Caroline Eley. The LMC representative is Dr. Andrew Kennedy.