

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY



MP CANDIDATE

YOUR CONSTITUENCY

“pharmacy matters” Our prescription for the nation’s health

If elected, I will work to support my constituents’
health by ensuring the next Government:

- helps everyone access pharmacists’ expertise.
- invests in pharmacy services.
- supports the health and care workforce.

DATE

I AM SIGNING TO SHOW MY SUPPORT



#votePharmacy

Supporting pharmacists' contribution to patient care and our NHS

This is a crucial time for the NHS, with a focus on patient safety, recurring medicines shortages, advances in technology, and growing pressures on the workforce. Amid continued uncertainty about Brexit and our future relationship with the EU, the next Government will face some key challenges to support patients and the NHS in 2020 and beyond.

Put patient safety at the heart of the NHS

- Invest in pharmacy to maximise its contribution to person-centred care, public health and prevention, and medicines safety.
- Fund IT infrastructure to enable pharmacists to access and update patient records.
- Pass long-awaited legislation on inadvertent dispensing errors to foster an open, learning culture to improve patient safety. ^{xvi}

Secure patient access to medicines

- Scrap prescription charges in England, in keeping with Scotland and Wales, to create a fairer system for patients across Britain.
- Support pharmacists who are working hard every day to manage medicines shortages and help patients access appropriate treatment.
- Work with national bodies and international partners to ensure UK patients can receive the medicines they need in a complex, global market.

Support the workforce to deliver patient care

- Agree fair funding for community pharmacy so patients get faster access to expert care and advice.
- Invest in education and training of pharmacists, as part of a comprehensive workforce strategy, to meet growing demand for their expertise.
- Expand health and wellbeing support to pharmacists and all health professionals delivering NHS services, so they can continue to provide safe and effective care.

Unlock the potential of new advances in medicines

- Build on the UK's position as a global leader in developing new medicines.
- Support advancements in personalised medicine to get better results for patients and improve safety.
- Develop the pharmacy workforce with the skills and capacity to make the most of new technologies such as pharmacogenomics.

Agree a future relationship with the EU

- Agree a future relationship with the EU, including on medicines, to protect patients and the NHS and avoid additional bureaucracy.
- Maintain funding for the UK science and research community and support international collaboration.
- Ensure the UK remains an attractive place for the world's best talent to live, work and study to support our healthcare services, universities and industry.

Why the country needs pharmacists' expertise

Pharmacists have the widest knowledge in the science and use of medicines. With five years of training, they are the experts in medicines and how they work.

In a changing NHS, pharmacists are becoming more integrated across the health service as part of the multidisciplinary team, enabling faster

patient access to services, driving up standards of care, and supporting doctors, nurses and other health professions around medicines safety.

As the NHS faces a workforce crisis, pharmacists' skills and expertise will be central to improve patient safety, deliver the best value from medicines, and reduce pressure on other parts of the health service.

56,000

Britain has over **56,000** registered pharmacists, making them the third-largest health profession in the NHS.ⁱ

£1b

Treating common ailments in community pharmacies, rather than in A&E or GP surgeries, could save the NHS **£1 billion** a year.^v

25%

The percentage of the UK population **aged 65** years or older is expected to **rise to 25%** by 2045.^{xi}

+7000



More pharmacists are training to become independent prescribers, with over **7,000 now able to provide additional support** to patients and the NHS.ⁱⁱ

6000

'Primary Care Networks' in England might need up to **6,000 pharmacists** in new roles to support their local population.^{vi}

45%

45% of all prescriptions are issued to over 65-year-olds, and 16.4% of this age group are on more than 10 medications.^{xii}

1.2M

There are **1.2 million visits** to community pharmacies every day for health-related reasons.ⁱⁱⁱ

2000

Over 2,000 pharmacists work in industry, helping to develop **life-saving** medicines.^{vii}

£98M

Avoidable medication harm costs the NHS an estimated **£98 million** per year.^{xiii}

£18B

Medicines are the most common form of treatment in the NHS – a yearly spend of over **£18 billion** in England.^{viii}

£300M

£300 million of NHS prescribed medicines are wasted each year, of which **£150 million** is avoidable.^{xiv}

20M

20 million GP appointments per year could be safely transferred to a community pharmacy.^{iv}

8%

Up to 8% of all unplanned hospital admissions are due to medication issues.^{ix} This rises to 17% in the over 65s.^x

£500M

The New Medicine Service in England, which provides support for people with long-term conditions who are prescribed new medicine, will lead to **savings of over £500 million** for the NHS.^{xv}

How you can help



Are you a candidate in the 2019 general election?

- Visit a local pharmacist, take a photo, and hear first-hand about how pharmacists make a real difference to your constituents' health.
- Back the pharmacy pledge and tweet **#votepharmacy** to the RPS **@rpharms** to show your support (you can find us on Facebook too).
- Tell your constituents about how you are supporting the pharmacy profession.

REFERENCES

- General Pharmaceutical Council annual report www.pharmacyregulation.org/annualreport/register
- General Pharmaceutical Council www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/council-meeting-papers-12-september-2019.pdf
- Department of Health (2008), Pharmacy in England assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228858/7341.pdf
- General Practice Digital Minor Illness Referral Service, www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/general
- Pharmaceutical Journal www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/national-minor-ailment-scheme-could-help-save-nhs-lbn/20066912.article
- Pharmaceutical Journal www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/opinion/editorial/no-gp-pharmacist-should-be-left-out-in-the-cold/20207017.article
- Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry www.abpi.org.uk/what-we-do/working-with-industry-and-academia/careers-in-the-pharmaceutical-industry/working-in-the-industry/research-and-development/pharmacy/
- NHS Digital, files.digital.nhs.uk/4E/6B214D/hosp-pres-eng-201718-report_v2.pdf
- Exploring the costs of unsafe care in the NHS www.frontier-economics.com/media/2459/exploring-the-costs-of-unsafe-care-in-the-nhs-frontier-report-2-2-2-2.pdf
- Polypharmacy and medicines optimisation www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/publication_file/polypharmacy-and-medicines-optimisation-kingsfund-nov13.pdf
- www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/mar2017
- www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2013/11/carry-prescribing-who-responsible-co-ordinating-patients-medication
- Prevalence and economic burden of medication errors in the NHS in England www.eepru.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/eepru-report-medication-error-feb-2018.pdf
- Pharmaceutical waste reduction in the NHS www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/pharmaceutical-waste-reduction.pdf
- Study claims the New Medicine Service will save the NHS over £500 million www.rpharms.com/about-us/news/details/study-claims-the-new-medicine-service-will-save-the-nhs-over-500-million
- www.rpharms.com/about-us/news/details/new-law-on-dispensing-errors-comes-into-force-today

About pharmacists

- Many pharmacists are based in the heart of communities, from rural to inner city areas, and community pharmacists play an essential part in supporting the population's health and well-being. They are also the most accessible health professional for the public.
- A growing number of pharmacists work in GP practices as part of the practice team or work across a local area to provide expertise and support to health professionals and patients.
- Around 20% of pharmacists work in hospitals. Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, they provide treatment programmes for all hospital patients and can specialise in areas such as asthma, heart disease, infectious diseases and children's health.
- Pharmacists work in universities, industry and research, teaching the next generation of health professionals and developing new medicines for tomorrow.

About the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is the professional body for pharmacists and pharmacy in Great Britain.

We lead and support the development of the pharmacy profession to improve the public's health and wellbeing, including through advancements in science, research and education.

Visit www.rpharms.com for more information.

FOLLOW US ON:



Royal Pharmaceutical Society



@rpharms