

AFTER LAST NIGHT

'If you need advice we can help'

Pharmacists have a strong track record as a service provider that helps people self-manage their Sexual and Reproductive health.



In 2012, nearly 450,000 new cases of STIs were diagnosed across the UK, which notwithstanding changes in the methodology of data collection is approximately double the number in 2002. In addition, it was estimated that by the end 2011, 96,000 people were living with HIV of which 25% were undiagnosed (PHE).

In Yorkshire and Humber, two South Yorkshire areas featured in the top three areas for diagnoses of STIs. Rotherham had 949.5 and Doncaster 832.2 cases per 100,000 of population (PHE).

The UK has the highest teenage pregnancy and abortion rates in Western Europe. South Yorkshire has an under 18 conception rate in excess of both the regional and national figures (ONS).

Public Health activity and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services are well established pharmacy roles especially in Community Pharmacy. Services are easily accessed by everyone with convenient locations, extended opening hours, private consulting areas and no appointments.

The key advantages of pharmacy services are:

- Accessibility to and by the public
- Informality encourages the public to obtain sensitive information in an unthreatening way
- Extensive coverage and opening times
- High quality advice from a healthcare professional able to provide treatment, prevention advice and signposting

Speak to a friendly face at your local community pharmacy

Proven Track Record

Community Pharmacy has shown it can deliver high quality NHS Services over a sustained period of time. Around the country there are examples of excellence in delivering Sexual Health Services such as:

- Emergency Hormonal Contraception
- Chlamydia Screening and Treating
- HPV Vaccination
- Hepatitis B and C Testing
- Provision of Oral Contraception
- Services addressing the wider determinants of poor Sexual Health e.g. Brief Interventions for Alcohol Misuse
- Health Promotion Campaigns
- Supply of Condoms
- Pregnancy Testing

Community Pharmacies Unfilled Potential

In South Yorkshire, Community Pharmacy has a long tradition of supplying Emergency Hormonal Contraception under a Patient Group Direction. These NHS services have been part of a wider initiative that has seen the Under 18 Conception rate reduce over the last decade

To varying degrees, other services have been provided in tandem. The potential of Community Pharmacy could be realized by the commissioning of a comprehensive suite of Sexual Health Services. This would provide convenience to patients and prevent the loss of contact with difficult to reach patient groups, who may not access other services to which they are signposted. An example could be provided by a service commissioned in the West Yorkshire area www.cpwyo.org.

Community Pharmacy's Contribution to Public Health

Pharmacy's Contribution to Public Health

Pharmacy's unique place in the heart of communities and in the high street make it a powerful contributor to the indicators outlined in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. There are three explicit indicators relating to Sexual Health that pharmacy already is having an impact on and could contribute to a greater extent with further development:

Domain 2 – Health Improvement

- Under 18 conceptions

Domain 3 – Health Protection

- Chlamydia diagnoses (15-24 year olds)
- People presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection

In addition there are other indicators that are affected by poor Sexual Health and would benefit from developing Pharmacy Sexual Health Services:

Domain 1 – Improving the Wider Determinants of Health

- Children born to teenage parents are more likely to live in poverty and attain worse educational standards, inhibiting their future life prospects

- Sexual Violence is vigilantly monitored by pharmacists, especially when delivering Sexual Health Services. Safeguarding training is included in all accreditation programmes and regularly updated

- Brief intervention services have been used in pharmacies to tackle alcohol and substance misuse, which can lead to poor Sexual Health

Domain 2 - Health Improvement

- Teenage pregnancy leads to an increased risk of low birth weight
- Health Promotion activities of Pharmacies could be used to improve the rates of breastfeeding and reduce smoking during pregnancy

Domain 3 – Health Protection

- Pharmacists are delivering Influenza Vaccinations across South Yorkshire, which could be extended to deliver HPV and Hepatitis Vaccinations

Domain 4 – Healthcare Public Health

- Teenage pregnancy leads to a high risk of infant mortality

It is estimated that for every £1 invested in contraceptive services, £11 is saved through prevention of unintended pregnancy.

We wish to work with local stakeholders to find ways to better use the skills of Community Pharmacy teams.

Community Pharmacy South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw
For further information
Email: england.syb-pharmacylpn@nhs.net
Telephone: 01709 302095 / 01709 302190

Providing NHS services

