

Clinical pharmacists are highly qualified health professionals who train for many years to become specialists in medicines and how they work.

They can work directly with you, as part of the general practice team, to make sure your medicines help you get better and stay well.

Having a clinical pharmacist in the practice team means you can be seen by an expert in medicines use for a longer appointment.

All pharmacists are registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council.

For more information and case studies, please visit NHS England at

www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care-comm/gp-action-plan/cp-gp-pilot

and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society at

www.rpharms.com/our-campaigns/pharmacists-and-gp-surgeries

Photos provided courtesy of Satellite Pictures and The Old School Surgery, Bristol.

What is a Clinical Pharmacist in a GP Practice?



STAYWELL

When will I see a clinical pharmacist?

You will see a clinical pharmacist when you need expert advice on your medicines. Your pharmacist will send you an appointment to come into the GP surgery for a clinical review. The appointment with the pharmacist is usually a longer appointment for 20 minutes.

Below are examples of how a clinical pharmacist can currently help:

Reviewing your medicines

If you are taking medicines over the long-term, you should be seen for a review at least once a year. The clinical pharmacist can review all your medicines and discuss how they are working for you. They can also arrange for you to have blood or other tests and monitor your results closely if you are on long-term medications that require close monitoring.

Medication review for the frail and elderly

If you are over 65 and on 10 or more medications, elderly or frail then the clinical pharmacist will bring you in for a 20 minute consultation to review your medications and come up with a shared plan to make sure all your medications are working well together. They will also carry out health checks, such as taking your blood pressure.

The pharmacist will stop medicines that are no longer needed and if you are experiencing any

side effects, they can work together to find a solution, such as changing your medicine or the dosage. They will also address any queries that you may have about your medicines.

After a stay in hospital

If your medicines have changed while you were in hospital, the clinical pharmacist can help explain these changes and ensure you get the maximum benefit from these medicines.

There are plans to offer more services in the next couple of years such as:

Long-term conditions

If you have a condition such as asthma, type 2 diabetes, arthritis or high blood pressure, the clinical pharmacist can discuss the medicines you're taking to make sure they're working for you. They can also help you with lifestyle changes to help you manage your condition.

Common illnesses

If you are suffering from a common illness such as a cold, hay fever, diarrhoea or an eye infection, you may see the clinical pharmacist instead of your GP. The clinical pharmacist may be able to prescribe medicines to treat your condition. You will always be referred to a GP if there is a need.



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Your appointment

Just as when you see a GP or a practice nurse, you will see a clinical pharmacist in a private consultation room.

Seeing the pharmacist does not replace an appointment with a doctor. You will still be able to see your GP if you need to.

A clinical pharmacist will not give you your medicines. You should collect your medicines from a community pharmacy or dispensing doctor in the usual way.

The Clinical Pharmacist will invite you in for a 20 minute consultation.

Please let the surgery know if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

