

Community Pharmacy: The First Stop in Everyday Neighbourhood Health

There are 304 community pharmacies in South Yorkshire, providing convenient access to healthcare for everyone. Many are open longer hours than other local health services, including evenings and weekends, making it easier to get the care you need when you need it.

Each pharmacy is run by a highly skilled team led by a pharmacist, offering expert advice and support, ensuring you have access to a team of healthcare professionals.

Over 99% of people living in areas of highest deprivation are within a 20-minute walk of a pharmacy, making them one of the most accessible healthcare services available. Community pharmacies are a trusted, local destination for everyday healthcare needs, medication advice, and professional support.

Essential Services

Provided by all community pharmacies

- [Repeat dispensing \(eRD\)](#) – improve convenience and access to repeat prescriptions.
- [Discharge Medicines Service](#) – reduces readmissions to hospital and improves patient safety at transitions of care.
- [Disposal of unwanted medicines](#) – pharmacies take back patients' unwanted medicines.
- [Healthy living pharmacies](#) – health promotion interventions to improve health and wellbeing.
- Support for self care – advice provision and, if appropriate, sale of medicines.
- Other Essential services – dispensing appliances, signposting and public health (promotion of healthy lifestyles).



Advanced Services

Community pharmacies can choose to provide any of these services, as long as they meet service specific criteria

- [Pharmacy First](#) – provides access to consultations for seven common conditions. GPs and NHS 111 can refer for minor conditions. NHS 111 can also refer for urgent supply of repeat medicines.
- [Pharmacy Contraception Service](#) – aims to provide patients with greater choice and access for their contraception needs. This service also includes access to emergency contraception.
- [Hypertension Case-Finding Service](#) – aims to identify people aged 40 years or older, or at the discretion of pharmacy staff, people under the age of 40, with high blood pressure and to refer them to general practice to confirm diagnosis and for appropriate management.
- [Seasonal Vaccination Service](#) – supports the administration of COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations to patients at risk of developing more serious complications from these viruses.
- [New Medicine Service](#) - provides support for people with long-term conditions newly prescribed a medicine to help improve medicines adherence; it is focused on specific patient groups and conditions.
- Other Advanced services include [Smoking Cessation Service](#) and [COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device Service](#)

National Enhanced Services

Nationally specified service, locally commissioned to meet local population needs

- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) and Pertussis Vaccination Service](#) – some pharmacies are taking part in this programme.



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Local Services

Services in South Yorkshire are commissioned at place level, meaning they are planned and delivered locally within Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster, and Sheffield to reflect the specific health needs of each community. While provision may vary slightly between places, there are a number of common services available across South Yorkshire.

Examples currently include:

- **Minor Ailments Service** - offers advice, self-care support, and treatment for common conditions, often without the need to see a GP. Free treatment is available for eligible patients.
- **Specialist Drugs on Demand** – ensures prompt access to specialist medicines, such as those for palliative care, where demand may be urgent or unpredictable. Selected pharmacies stock an agreed range of these medicines and guarantee availability during opening hours, providing advice to patients, carers, and clinicians on use and safe disposal.
- **Stop Smoking Services** – improves access to nicotine replacement therapy (via vouchers) and prescription treatments (Varenicline or Bupropion) for all patients registered with an NHS GP in Barnsley, delivered through participating community pharmacies.
- **Substance Misuse Services** – includes supervised consumption, needle exchange, and naloxone provision, supporting harm reduction, safety, and improved patient outcomes.



Possible Future Services

Community pharmacies are ideally placed to play a greater role in local care pathway re-design

Consider the role that community pharmacy can play in particular in supporting cardiovascular disease, long-term conditions, prevention and other medicine-related pathways.

- **Support with vaccinations** – we are ideally placed to deliver a range of adult and childhood vaccinations
- **Medication reviews** – Conditions could include respiratory, diabetes, hypertension, polypharmacy in the elderly.
- **Independent prescriber (IP) clinics** – Examples of clinics include hypertension, respiratory and diabetes clinics. From 2026 all newly qualified pharmacists will also register as independent prescribers. This will provide increased opportunities to utilise prescribers further and to provide more clinics in community pharmacy.
- **Health screening and blood tests** – Examples include diabetes, HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, cholesterol testing, HbA1c testing
- **Sexual Health Services** - Examples include STI Screening and Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)

Community pharmacies are uniquely positioned to support neighbourhood-level population health goals and the ambitions of the 10-Year Health Plan.

They play a vital role in reducing health inequalities, improving prevention and early diagnosis, providing easy access to support for acute conditions, managing long-term conditions, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions, and enhancing medicines safety.

By delivering high-quality, accessible services, pharmacies help people stay well, access support early, and receive the care they need when they need it.



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