

Proposal 1

Proposal 1 is to amend the Medicines Act 1968 and Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to enable pharmacists (should they wish) to authorise a registered pharmacy technician to carry out, or supervise another person to carry out, the preparation, assembly, dispensing, sale and supply of POMs and P medicines.

Question

Do you agree or disagree with proposal 1?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree

If you have any additional information to support your answer, please provide details (maximum 350 words).

Healthwatch Birmingham agree with proposal 1. We feel that this proposal has the potential to improve experiences for people using pharmacy services. By allowing a registered pharmacy technician to dispense and supply medication, this can allow the pharmacist more time to consult with and advise people, especially in community pharmacy settings.

Proposal 2

Proposal 2 will enable a pharmacist to authorise any member of the pharmacy team to hand out checked and bagged prescriptions to patients or patient representatives. This is to align ‘bricks and mortar’ pharmacy premises with current practice for home delivery, locker box and other delivery services.

Question

Do you agree or disagree with proposal 2?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree

If you have any additional information to support your answer, please provide details (maximum 350 words).

We agree with proposal 2. Not only does it bring “bricks and mortar” pharmacies into line with practice elsewhere in the industry, but it also has potential to increase the accessibility and speed of services for people using them. It stops the situation where prescriptions cannot be handed over when the pharmacist is involved in a consultation.

Proposal 3

Proposal 3 is to allow a registered pharmacy technician to be responsible for a hospital aseptic facility in the same way that a pharmacist is under the current law.

Question

Do you agree or disagree with proposal 3?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree

If you have any additional information to support your answer, please provide details (maximum 350 words).

Healthwatch Birmingham agrees with proposal 3. We have frequently heard from people about their experiences of delays getting medication to them in hospital settings, which can be quite distressing for patients and their families. Proposal 3 recognises the vital roles that pharmacy technicians already play in hospitals and reduces any potential delays caused by the unavailability of a pharmacist.

‘At or from’

We propose that Regulation 220 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 is brought into line with the changes already made to other legislation concerning the supply of medicines ‘at or from’ a registered pharmacy premises. This is to better reflect current practice, particularly in the provision of delivery services from a registered premises.

Question

Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree

If you have any additional information to support your answer, please provide details (maximum 350 words).

We agree with this proposal as it allows the regulations to more accurately reflect current practices within the industry.

Legislative barriers

Question

Do you think there any other barriers to modernising pharmaceutical practice in government legislation that we should consult on removing in the future?

- Yes

- No
- Don't know

If you answered yes, please provide details of these barriers to support your answer (maximum 350 words).

Healthwatch Birmingham would like attention to be paid to two areas when modernising pharmaceutical practice:

Patient experience – We would like to see a greater emphasis on the role of patient experiences within pharmacies. As pharmacies deliver a greater range of services through pharmacy first and other community pharmacy schemes now, it has never been more important to listen to patient feedback about their experiences. Services need to meet the needs of their local communities and patient feedback has a vital role to play in continuous service improvement.

Cost of services – We hear from people who struggle to afford medicines during the current cost of living crisis, both over the counter medicines and prescription medicines. We would like to see pharmacies greater flexibility to support people from low income households, whether this is with health advice, support to apply for exemptions or reduced cost schemes for needed medications.

Impact assessment

Question

If you have any further information to inform the consultation-stage [impact assessment](#) on the costs and benefits of each option, please provide it here (maximum 350 words).

N/A

Draft statutory instrument

Question

If you have any further comments on any aspect of the [draft statutory instrument](#), please provide it here (maximum 350 words).

N/A