

HILLINGDON
LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL STATEMENT

2021 / 2022

REVIEW OF THE PERIOD

1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

**Hillingdon Local Pharmaceutical Committee
is a constituent member of the Middlesex Pharmaceutical Group**

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The Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Hillingdon LPC is a ten-member Committee comprising six representatives of independent contractors, three representatives of the Company Chemists Association and one representative of employee pharmacists working for Hillingdon contractors.

The Committee represents all 64 pharmacies in contract with NHS England; including four 100hour pharmacies and zero distance selling pharmacies, that number is broken down as follows: -

Boots	15
Lloydspharmacy	2
Superdrug	2
Tesco	2
Total CCA	21 (33%)
Independent	43
Non -CCA	43

There are no chains representing more than 5% of non-CCA contractors across the LPC area. The current LPC constitution was agreed at a Special General Meeting of the LPC on 20th February 2013. The revised constitution became operative from 1st April 2013. Improved corporate governance arrangements were implemented prior to this date in April 2010. The Committee reviews its corporate governance procedures on a regular basis. All members are required to complete declarations of interest and to adhere to a code of conduct that includes a confidentiality agreement. As we emerged from the pandemic, the Committee met on 3 occasions virtually by Zoom during the year under review. Many members are also represented on several other Committees, some of which are constituted jointly with this LPC. A membership list for the year of the report follows:

LPC membership 2021-2022

MEMBER	CATEGORY	PHARMACY REPRESENTED	Contact tel. no.
Mr. Sanjay Doegar	Independent	Ruislip Manor Pharmacy, 53 Victoria Rd., Ruislip, HA4 9BH	01895 632409
Mr. Azhar Hussain	CCA	Boots UK, Terminal 2 Heathrow Airport TW6 1EW	Via LPC Office
Mr. Prakash Mahtani [Chairman]	Independent	Vantage Pharmacy, 252 Kingshill Avenue, Hayes UB4 8BZ	020 8845 5967
Mr. Jatish Mistry	Independent	Carewell Chemist, 10 Mulberry Pde, West Drayton, UB79AE	01895 443329
Mr. Dhanesh Patel	Independent	Carters Pharmacy, 41 Salisbury Rd, Eastcote HA5 2NJ	0203 662 7669
Ms. Harshna Patel	CCA	Boots, 380 Long Lane Hillingdon UB10 9PG	01895 237266
Ms Krishna Patel	Independent	Eastcote Pharmacy, 111 Field End Rd, Eastcote HA5 1QG	020 8866 2572
Mr. Rikin Patel [Vice-Chairman]	Independent	Sharman's Chemist, Maxwell Road, Northwood HA6 2QF	01923 825288
Mr. Mandeep Rauli	Employee	Boots UK Ltd Fern House 53-55 High St. Feltham TW14 9BD	07717 878831
Mrs.Nitu Verma	CCA	Boots UK Ltd Nottingham, NG2 3AA	Via LPC office

The pharmacy contract

In this year-end update, we reflect on what has been a challenging year we have faced coming out of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on all levels – personal, professional, financial, mental and health perspectives. The challenge for the LPC and for pharmacy teams to recover normal activity against the backdrop of Covid-19. The onset of Covid-19 in 2020 was the biggest health crises to have faced the pharmacy sector in the 21 century, the NHS, and the nation in general. Our work in 2020-21 and into 2022 has been influenced by the coronavirus pandemic, and many of our activities have been a direct response to the crisis.

Community pharmacy contractors have delivered for our patients and the NHS. Pharmacy teams have gone beyond the extra mile, performing to the highest standards of patient care throughout the pandemic, in most difficult conditions. Community Pharmacy has rightly made the claim we are the health care professionals to have kept our doors open to the public throughout the pandemic. Contractors and all staff in the community pharmacy sector has provided outstanding patient care, making decisions in the best interests of the pharmacy team and patients by using good professional judgement and taking a pragmatic approach to pharmacy practice. This outstanding work, dedication, and courage of each one of our contractors has been exemplary. The LPC has worked tirelessly on contractor's behalf. The LPC consulted with our local commissioners, the CCGs, and Local Authorities, to help reduce any COVID related changes in service that might damage the pharmacy businesses. Throughout these challenging times the LPC continued to promote and support community pharmacy contractors locally to represent your interests, also providing you with the resources and support required to address the challenging issues you have faced.

Our team has supported you through hundreds of your questions/queries weekly by phone and email. We have worked hard to support you with essential regulatory and practical areas of community pharmacy practice in the form of relevant resources, updates, patient safety, risk assessments, flu service, Pharmacy Quality Scheme and Controlled Drugs. We are here to continue to support you during 2022 and beyond. A significant issue affecting contractors in 2021-2022 is that of workforce. The recruitment and retention of pharmacists in the community pharmacy network has been a challenge, because of many pharmacists being recruited to join PCNs as pharmacist advisors and to GP practices. The result of this change has been that our pharmacies have often applied to reduce and change their supplementary hours through the lack of locums and staff availability. LPC has of course advised our contractors how to make application to reduce hours to NHSE&I. The LPC has provided help and communications to contractors to assist the submission of claims to the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). The LPC has supported contractors with COVID-19 vaccination programme – community pharmacy involvement, COVID-19, contractual matters, flu vaccination support, PQS support, dealing with drug shortages. We continue to work with primary and secondary care colleagues to implement the GP Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (GPCPCS) and the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) from secondary care. The Middlesex Group executive staff members mapped all the PCNs within each LPC Borough areas, including all the surgeries within each PCN. They continue to help pharmacies within a PCN to which an individual pharmacy needed to be aligned. From each group of aligned pharmacies to each individual PCN the office help with the appointment of a lead pharmacist to make sure PQS payments were maximised. All this work assisted individual pharmacies claim quality points in the Quality Payments Scheme. A mix of Local Enhanced Public Health and Pharmacy Services are provided across the Hillingdon LPC area by pharmacy contractors; these are the smoking cessation service and NRT supply, commissioned through ARCH part of CNWL, the emergency hormonal contraception supply along with a Chlamydia testing and treatment service is operative across Hillingdon pharmacies as part of sexual health services commissioned by the Public Health department of the Local Authority. The needle exchange services and sharps disposal, supervised consumption of opiates, are still operative. Public holiday rotas and vaccination services are commissioned by NHS England. The Out of Hours Palliative Care Medicines Rota Scheme continues to be available via some Hillingdon pharmacies. The LPC continues to organise the out of hours palliative care service across Harrow and Hillingdon in conjunction with Care UK and London Central and West (LCW) the out of hours GP provider. New contractors are routinely invited to participate. The Middlesex Group Executive Team use the data available in the PNAs to answer routine enquires from our contractors and commissioners over aspects of service provision. The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for the Borough of Hillingdon area represent an accurate picture of pharmaceutical provision within the borough area and how that provision meets the needs of people in this locality. The LPC relies on the PNA data to respond to new applications for Market Entry (formerly Control of Entry). The PNA describes pharmaceutical services within a borough as adequate. Applications and changes of pharmacies are described under the “Contract Applications and Changes” section of this report. The last PNA was published by April 2018. The next PNA was due to be published in April 2021, but the DHSC set the timetable back by more than one year due to the pandemic. A publication date has been set at October 2022. The LPC team was consulted by Hillingdon Public Health in the development the 2022 PNA. The PNA helps inform the Middlesex Group Executive Team to respond on behalf of the various committees to new applications for contract. Further information can be obtained by direct application to the LPC office. The LPC supports existing contractors by providing opinion to contract applications. The LPC’s Chief Executive responds on behalf of the LPC to contract applications to NHS England and to the *FHS Appeal Unit at NHS Litigation Authority*. This activity has always been a major function of the LPC and as such the office has endeavoured to assist contractors with information and advice in relation to new contract applications and applications for relocation. The Hillingdon LPC, through the Middlesex Group, endeavours to maintain and support community pharmacy contractors in delivering high quality services to their patients and the public. Pharmacy-based local services are often considered to be *necessary services or relevant services* within the context of the PNA. It is stated in the 2018 PNA that the distribution and access to pharmaceutical services provided as essential services within the NHS contractual framework by community pharmacies in the Boroughs of the LPC area, meet the needs of the resident population within these Boroughs. The Chief Executive regularly communicates with contractors advising them to check their supplementary hours in order that they may give 90 days’ notification of closure should a Bank Holiday or part of Christmas Holiday fall when there is little need to open. The LPC’s continuing strategy for our contractors has been to help improve local pharmacy and public health services by implementing, where possible, new innovative services through community pharmacies. The LPC is continuing to work hard to maintain existing services, but this is against the backdrop of the NHS and Local Authorities not extending commissioning some pharmacy services. The LPC will endeavour to seek and implement new services where possible, through community pharmacies. The most successful example has been that the Middlesex Group of LPCs has collaborated with colleagues in Pharmacy London and with Public Health in NHS England London Area Team to establish and now maintain a successful Flu Vaccination Service across all London Boroughs. This service is now a national advanced service, but elements of the vaccination service such as pneumonia vaccinations are still managed locally by the LPCs in the London Vaccination service. The office receives many enquiries about the service detail from contractors during the season. This service for those participating contractors provided circa some 571,700 flu vaccinations across London as part of the National Influenza Vaccination Programme within Community Pharmacy which provided 4,851,608 in the period until the vaccination season had ended at the end of March 2022. There were 2,200 PPV vaccinations in London in the same period. Considerable growth had been achieved in flu vaccinations numbers by community pharmacy. The work of the LPC over several years has led to the use of community pharmacy for Covid-19 Vaccination, which has assisted the national effort and the local primary care response to Covid vaccination. Across London pneumonia vaccinations and meningitis vaccinations were carried out in community pharmacies too. The Chief Executive, Michael Levitan has put in the hard work and effort into maintaining a successful and increasing service. NHS pharmacy contract monitoring responsibility resides with the London Area Team of NHS England. The LPC has often helped contractors meet their contractual obligations by providing advice as to how to complete the annual CPAF questionnaire sent out to all contractors by NHS England. The LPC has made appropriate representations to the Area Team. The LPC will continue to support and encourage our contractors. The LPC has continued to check realistic service fees and negotiate reasonable terms of service with local commissioners.

Community pharmacy, however, will respond to future challenges in providing innovative and demonstrable services which meet the current NHS criteria. The LPC will continue to support and encourage our contractors. The NHS pharmacy contract monitoring responsibility resides with the London Area Team of NHS England.

Contract applications and changes

During the period of the review of this report, there were no contract applications or transfers made or any outstanding resolutions of previous applications. The year from 1st April 2021 to the 31st March 2022 was a dormant period for such changes for pharmacies in Hillingdon.

Hillingdon Prescription Statistics 2021-2022

1	Number of items	4,658,007	7	Percentage discount of basic price	6.91%
	England 2021-22	1,042,146,843		England 2021-22	6.93%
2	Number of prescriptions (fees)	4,703,847	8	Net cost including container payment*	32,597,828.90
	England 2021-22	1,055,799,667		England 2021-22	7,834,262,080.57
3	Total of basic prices	£ p 34,810,721.05	9	Average net cost per prescription (8/2) £ p	6.93
	England 2021-22	8,388,369,036.61		England 2021-22	7.42
4	Average basic cost per prescription (3/2)	£ p 7.40	10	Fees	£ p 7,695,199.96
	England 2021-22	7.95		England 2021-22	1,708,550,605.93
5	Total discount	£ p 2,405,177.31	11	Average fee per prescription	£ p 1.64
	England 2021-22	581,146,941.56		England 2021-22	1.62
6	Average discount per prescription (5/2)	£ p 0.51	12	Payment for consumables **	£p 58,327.56
	England 2021-22	0.55		England 2021-22	13,091,915.10

*Including container payment and out of pocket expenses. **Payment for consumables formerly container allowance

Middlesex Pharmaceutical Group

Each of the Middlesex LPCs (Barnet, Enfield & Haringey; Brent & Harrow; Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow; Hillingdon) appoints members (normally the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other member) to the Middlesex Pharmaceutical Group. The Group acts as a co-ordinating umbrella organisation for the constituent LPCs and appoints its own Chairman (Hiten Patel, Chairman, Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow LPC), Vice-Chairman (Shabbir Panju, Chairman, Brent and Harrow LPC) and Group Treasurer (Robert Curd, member, Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow LPC). The LPCs share a Chief Executive & Secretary (Michael Levitan), Office manager and PA to the Chief Executive (Becky McCabe who retired in early 2022, we were joined by Emma Nairn who filled this role in January 2022), part time Finance Controller (Judi Waldman), part time Committee Secretary (Joan Penwill), part time Secretarial Assistant (Reena Shah) and part-time consultant pharmacists (Gerald Alexander and Vasundra Tailor) part time Liaison and Engagement Clinical Development Pharmacist (Subrina Ramdarshan). We have been joined by two part time pharmacist colleagues Mrs Marsha Alter and Mrs Shivali Lakhani who have taken temporary posts which include research for NIHR (National Institute of Health Research). All staff members work from the one secretariat office in Whetstone.

Pharmacy London

The Middlesex Group of LPCs are founder members of Pharmacy London (PL) which is a forum of the Local Pharmaceutical Committees who represent London's community pharmacies. The Association was formed to give London LPCs the opportunity to exchange matters of interest together, on a regular basis, to take a strategic view of the development and implementation of pharmaceutical services across London. Pharmacy London discuss operational matters that promote good practice. Between them, Pharmacy London represents approximately 1460 pharmacies, except for a part of East London. As London accounts for nearly 15% of the population of England and its pharmacies dispense tens of millions of prescriptions, Pharmacy London sees itself as representing the most accessed healthcare professionals in the health economy. Services delivered from community pharmacy across the city have evolved over the past 15 years to become an essential part of the NHS and Public Health infrastructure, providing Londoners with quality healthcare provision where and when they need it. Each London LPC appoints two members to the Forum, usually the Secretary, Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman. Pharmacy London meets around six times a year in a variety of locations. Normally sponsorship helps meet the costs of Pharmacy London meetings. The elected Chairman for PL is Mr. Raj Matharu; he is the CEO of Bexley Bromley Greenwich LPC. PL's CEO and Secretary is Mr Amit Patel. The Treasurer is Michael Levitan, Chief Executive and Secretary to the Middlesex Group of LPCs.

