

What does a Clinical Pharmacist do in a GP practice?

Pharmacists are experts in medicines; they are highly trained professionals who have knowledge of all things relating to medicines. From the right medicine for you and your condition, to knowledge about how different medicines work in the body.

In GP practice pharmacists work closely with the practice teams to answer queries about medicines, and ensure medicines are being used appropriately to keep patients safe. Many GP Clinical Pharmacists are able to prescribe medicines, but those who can't work closely with your GP, to ensure the medicines you are prescribed are safe and working well for you.

Why have I been asked to book an appointment with the Clinical Pharmacist?



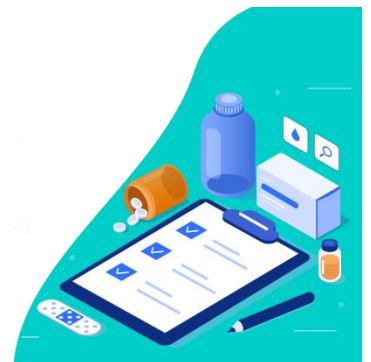
We have information from NHS England which has identified the types of patients who would benefit most from a Structured Medication Review (SMR). If you are invited for a SMR it is because you fall into one of those groups of patients. The reasons for this may be varied but some examples include; you could be prescribed a medicine which needs additional monitoring to ensure it is safe or it could be you are on a lot of medicines.

What is a Structured Medication Review?

During a Structured Medication Review the Clinical Pharmacist will go through all your medication with you. They will ask you what is important to you and about how you manage your medicines normally.

They will consider things like:

- what conditions you have that need treatment,
- what dose is best for you (this includes taking into account things like how well your kidneys and liver are working, interactions with other medicines)
- your lifestyle and your choices
- monitoring of the medicines, to see if they are working and to check they aren't doing you any harm.



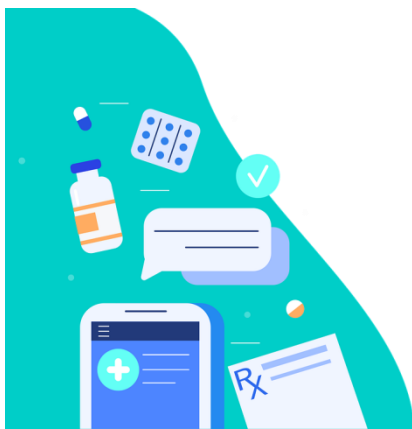
Any changes made following the review, will be made with you at the centre of the decision, your views are very important to us.

How can I get the most from my appointment with my Clinical Pharmacist?

Have your medicines nearby, if you have a face-to-face appointment it can be useful to bring them with you to the appointment. Think about how you use your medicines, what works well for you and what doesn't. Think about what questions you may have about your medicines, some people find it helpful to write these down before the appointment to make sure they don't forget.

Always be honest with your Clinical Pharmacist, they aren't there to judge you, just to ensure you get the best from the medicines we give you.

If you'd like someone else to be involved in the review, maybe someone who helps you with your medicines or a friend or relative, we are happy to involve them with your consent.



What happens after the Structured Medication Review?

The Clinical Pharmacist will document your consultation in your GP record and amend your prescription, as agreed with you. If they are not a prescriber, they will discuss these changes with your GP. Depending on the changes made, you may have a follow up appointment with the Clinical Pharmacist or not. If you have any concerns following your review you can, of course, phone the surgery and book a follow up.

What if I'd like some more information?

For any further information about the Clinical Pharmacists in your GP surgery or about Structured Medication Reviews, please see the GPA website: <http://www.northantsgpalliance.com/what-we-do/gpa-clinical-pharmacists/>

If you still have queries please contact: northamptongpa.clinicalpharmacist@nhs.net.

PLEASE PUT THE NAME OF YOUR SURGERY IN THE SUBJECT BAR to ensure the correct pharmacist can get back to you. Please do not include any clinical details on this email. Queries about booking appointments should be directed to your specific surgery.