

26 February 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The Pharmacy First service launched on 31 January 2024. This service is an expansion of the previous Community Pharmacist Consultation Service. Whilst still encouraging GP practices to refer appropriate patients with minor illness to be managed by community pharmacies, in addition seven new clinical pathways have been introduced. The new clinical pathways enable community pharmacies to treat suitable patients without the need for prescription from their GP.

Please see attached a summary and GP practice team support pack outlining:

- what the service offers
- suitable symptoms for referral
- how to refer and care navigate and
- some very useful narrative in explaining the service to patients.

The Pharmacy First service is an innovation for community pharmacy which we support, and we encourage you to do so also. Our Community Pharmacist colleagues are highly trained clinicians and very valued members of our Primary Care team that will enhance the services provided by Primary Care.

Together we can work to ensure that patients are seen and have their clinical needs managed by the right clinician at the right time.

We thank you for all the extremely hard work that you and your teams do.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paula Cowan
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