

Registered pharmacy inspection report

Pharmacy name: Ditton Pharmacy

Address: 203 Hale Road, Ditton, WIDNES, Cheshire, WA8 8QB

Pharmacy reference: 1029868

Type of pharmacy: Community

Date of inspection: 11/12/2025

Pharmacy context and inspection background

This community pharmacy is situated on a high street in the town of Ditton in Widnes. The pharmacy dispenses NHS prescriptions, private prescriptions and sells over-the-counter medicines. It also provides a range of services including seasonal flu and COVID vaccinations, and the NHS Pharmacy First service. The pharmacy supplies some people with medicines in multi-compartment compliance packs to help them take their medicines at the right time.

This was a full routine inspection of the pharmacy. The pharmacy was last inspected in September 2015.

Overall outcome: Standards not all met

Required Action: Improvement Action Plan

Follow this link to [find out what the inspections possible outcomes mean](#)

Standards not met

Standard 1.6

- The pharmacy has paper records for its higher risk medicines. But it does not always keep some of the records up to date to ensure they are an accurate source of information. So the pharmacy may not be able to always show what should be present in the pharmacy which may increase the

risk of loss or diversion.

Standard 4.3

- The pharmacy does not store some of its higher risk medicines in suitable locations. So they are unable to demonstrate they are doing all they can to ensure these medicines are kept safe.

Standard 4.4

- The pharmacy does not receive drug alerts. So members of the team are unable to carry out important checks to help make sure medicines remain fit for purpose.

Standards that were met with areas for improvement

Standard 1.2

- Members of the pharmacy team discuss mistakes that are identified during the dispensing process, such as a near misses. But they do not record the details to enable a review. So they may not be able to identify additional learning from underlying themes, or show how they are improving the quality of the services provided.

Standard 2.2

- Members of the pharmacy team have completed training courses for their roles. But the pharmacy does not routinely provide training packages to members of the team to help them to keep up to date and develop new skills.

Standard 4.2

- The pharmacy team members speak to people who use their services, particularly when they are starting a new medicine. But they do not routinely speak to those taking higher risk medicines or record the counselling advice they provide. This would help to ensure continuity of care and make sure up-to-date information is available during clinical reviews.
- The pharmacy provides medicines in multi-compartment compliance packs to help people take their medicines. But they do not routinely provide patient information leaflets each time with their medicines. So people may not always have up to date information about their medicines.

Principle 1: The governance arrangements safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public

Summary outcome: Standards not all met

Table 1: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 1

Standard	Outcome of individual standard	Area for improvement/ Area of good or excellent practice
1.1 - The risks associated with providing pharmacy services are identified and managed	Met	
1.2 - The safety and quality of pharmacy services are regularly reviewed and monitored	Met	Area for improvement
1.3 - Pharmacy services are provided by staff with clearly defined roles and clear lines of accountability	Met	
1.4 - Feedback and concerns about the pharmacy, services and staff can be raised by individuals and organisations, and these are taken into account and action taken where appropriate	Met	
1.5 - Appropriate indemnity or insurance arrangements are in place for the pharmacy services provided	Met	
1.6 - All necessary records for the safe provision of pharmacy services are kept and maintained	Not met	
1.7 - Information is managed to protect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of patients and the public who receive pharmacy services	Met	
1.8 - Children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded	Met	

Principle 2: Staff are empowered and competent to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public

Summary outcome: **Standards met**

Table 2: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 2

Standard	Outcome of individual standard	Area for improvement/ Area of good or excellent practice
2.1 - There are enough staff, suitably qualified and skilled, for the safe and effective provision of the pharmacy services provided	Met	
2.2 - Staff have the appropriate skills, qualifications and competence for their role and the tasks they carry out, or are working under the supervision of another person while they are in training	Met	Area for improvement
2.3 - Staff can comply with their own professional and legal obligations and are empowered to exercise their professional judgement in the best interests of patients and the public	Met	
2.4 - There is a culture of openness, honesty and learning	Met	
2.5 - Staff are empowered to provide feedback and raise concerns about meeting these standards and other aspects of pharmacy services	Met	
2.6 - Incentives or targets do not compromise the health, safety or wellbeing of patients and the public, or the professional judgement of staff	Met	

Principle 3: The environment and condition of the premises from which pharmacy services are provided, and any associated premises, safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public

Summary outcome: **Standards met**

Table 3: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 3

Standard	Outcome of individual standard	Area for improvement/ Area of good or excellent practice
3.1 - Premises are safe, clean, properly maintained and suitable for the pharmacy services provided	Met	
3.2 - Premises protect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of patients and the public who receive pharmacy services	Met	
3.3 - Premises are maintained to a level of hygiene appropriate to the pharmacy services provided	Met	
3.4 - Premises are secure and safeguarded from unauthorized access	Met	
3.5 - Pharmacy services are provided in an environment that is appropriate for the provision of healthcare	Met	

Principle 4: The way in which pharmacy services, including management of medicines and medical devices, are delivered safeguards the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public

Summary outcome: Standards not all met

Table 4: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 4

Standard	Outcome of individual standard	Area for improvement/ Area of good or excellent practice
4.1 - The pharmacy services provided are accessible to patients and the public	Met	
4.2 - Pharmacy services are managed and delivered safely and effectively	Met	Area for improvement
4.3 - Medicines and medical devices are: obtained from a reputable source; safe and fit for purpose; stored securely; safeguarded from unauthorized access; supplied to the patient safely; and disposed of safely and securely	Not met	
4.4 - Concerns are raised when medicines or medical devices are not fit for purpose	Not met	

Principle 5: The equipment and facilities used in the provision of pharmacy services safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public

Summary outcome: **Standards met**

Table 5: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 5

Standard	Outcome of individual standard	Area for improvement/ Area of good or excellent practice
5.1 - Equipment and facilities needed to provide pharmacy services are readily available	Met	
5.2 - Equipment and facilities are: obtained from a reputable source; safe and fit for purpose; stored securely; safeguarded from unauthorized access; and appropriately maintained	Met	
5.3 - Equipment and facilities are used in a way that protects the privacy and dignity of the patients and the public who receive pharmacy services	Met	

What do the summary outcomes for each principle mean?

Finding	Meaning
✓ Excellent practice	The pharmacy demonstrates innovation in the way it delivers pharmacy services which benefit the health needs of the local community, as well as performing well against the standards.
✓ Good practice	The pharmacy performs well against most of the standards and can demonstrate positive outcomes for patients from the way it delivers pharmacy services.
✓ Standards met	The pharmacy meets all the standards.
Standards not all met	The pharmacy has not met one or more standards.