

# Registered pharmacy inspection report

## Pharmacy name: Merlin Pharmacy

**Address:** 54 Silverweed Road, CHATHAM, Kent, ME5 0QX

**Pharmacy reference:** 1032677

**Type of pharmacy:** Community

**Date of inspection:** 26/02/2026

### Pharmacy context and inspection background

This pharmacy is located in a row of shops in Chatham, Kent. It dispenses people's prescriptions, sells over-the-counter medicines and provides health advice. It offers consultations and some medicines through the NHS Pharmacy First service. And it dispenses some people's medicines in multi-compartment compliance packs to help them manage their medicines.

This was an intelligence-led inspection of the pharmacy following information received by the GPhC. Not all the Standards were inspected on this occasion. The pharmacy was last inspected in March 2019.

**Overall outcome:** Standards met

**Required Action:** None

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

### Areas of good practice

#### Standard 1.8

- The pharmacy team are familiar with common signs of abuse, and are able to provide examples of safeguarding interventions that they have made and how they have resulted in positive outcomes for people.

## Standards that were met with areas for improvement

### Standard 1.6

- The pharmacy does not routinely document running balances in line with its Standard Operating Procedure for medications which require records to be maintained. And during the inspection some discrepancies were identified. However, the responsible pharmacist gave assurances that action was being taken in relation to the discrepancies found, and said that records of running balances would be made routinely going forward.

### Standard 4.2

- The pharmacy does not complete individual risk assessments for people who have valproate-containing products dispensed in their multi-compartment compliance packs. But none of them fall within the at-risk group. The responsible pharmacist gave assurances that they would complete risk assessments for them to help ensure that supplying those medicines in this way remains both safe and appropriate.

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

Summary outcome: **Standards met**

Table 1: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 1

| Standard                                                                                                                                                                               | Outcome of individual standard | Area for improvement/<br>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                            |                                                             |
| 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                                                                                        | Met                            | <b>Area for improvement</b>                                 |
| 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                            | <b>Good practice</b>                                        |

## 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/<br>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                            |                                                             |
| 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 met**

Table 4: Inspection outcomes for standards under principle 4

| Standard                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Outcome of individual standard | Area for improvement/<br>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                            | <b>Area for improvement</b>                                 |
| 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 | Met                            |                                                             |
| 4.4 - Concerns are raised when medicines or medical devices are not fit for purpose                                                                                                                                             | 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/<br>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 | Standard not inspected         |                                                             |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ <b>Excellent practice</b>  | 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. |
| ✓ <b>Good practice</b>       | The pharmacy performs well against most of the standards and can demonstrate positive outcomes for patients from the way it delivers pharmacy services.                                |
| ✓ <b>Standards met</b>       | The pharmacy meets all the standards.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Standards not all met</b> | The pharmacy has not met one or more standards.                                                                                                                                        |