

Registered pharmacy inspection report

Pharmacy name: Ask Chemist

Address: 13 Forbes Road, BOSTON, Lincolnshire, PE21 0PD

Pharmacy reference: 1034237

Type of pharmacy: Community

Date of inspection: 23/01/2025

Pharmacy context and inspection background

The pharmacy is on a residential estate in the market town of Boston, Lincolnshire. Its main services include dispensing NHS prescriptions and selling over-the-counter medicines. It provides the NHS New Medicine Service (NMS), NHS blood pressure check service and NHS Pharmacy First service. It also offers a private weight management service. The pharmacy supplies some medicines in multi-compartment compliance packs, designed to help people remember to take their medicines. And it offers a medicine delivery service.

This was a reinspection following an inspection in July 2024, where the pharmacy did not meet Standards 1.2, 1.6 and 4.3. This reinspection focused mainly on those Standards which had previously not been met. The pharmacy has improved against all these standards. Since the last inspection, its team members have been regularly recording the mistakes they make when dispensing medicines to support them in monitoring risk. They keep medicines in a neat and tidy manner on the dispensary shelves which supports them in working safely. The pharmacy conducts regular stock checks of its medicines to ensure they remain safe to supply to people. And it appropriately monitors the environment in which medicines are stored. The pharmacy is keeping its records in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. And its team continue to make good efforts to keep the small premises clean and free from unnecessary clutter.

Overall outcome: Standards met

Required Action: None

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

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/ Area of good or excellent practice
1.1 - The risks associated with providing pharmacy services are identified and managed	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	
1.5 - Appropriate indemnity or insurance arrangements are in place for the pharmacy services provided	Standard not inspected	
1.6 - All necessary records for the safe provision of pharmacy services are kept and maintained	Met	
1.7 - Information is managed to protect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of patients and the public who receive pharmacy services	Standard not inspected	
1.8 - Children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded	Standard not inspected	

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

Summary outcome: Not assessed

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	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	
2.4 - There is a culture of openness, honesty and learning	Standard not inspected	
2.5 - Staff are empowered to provide feedback and raise concerns about meeting these standards and other aspects of pharmacy services	Standard not inspected	
2.6 - Incentives or targets do not compromise the health, safety or wellbeing of patients and the public, or the professional judgement of staff	Standard not inspected	

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	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	
3.5 - Pharmacy services are provided in an environment that is appropriate for the provision of healthcare	Standard not inspected	

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/ Area of good or excellent practice
4.1 - The pharmacy services provided are accessible to patients and the public	Standard not inspected	
4.2 - Pharmacy services are managed and delivered safely and effectively	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	

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: Not assessed

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	Standard not inspected	
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	Standard not inspected	

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.