

Registered pharmacy inspection report

Pharmacy name: Merton Chemist

Address: 223 Stanley Road, BOOTLE, Merseyside, L20 3DY

Pharmacy reference: 1034392

Type of pharmacy: Community

Date of inspection: 03/02/2025

Pharmacy context and inspection background

This community pharmacy is situated on a main road near to the town centre of Bootle, Merseyside. The pharmacy dispenses NHS prescriptions, private prescriptions and sells over-the-counter medicines. It also provides a range of services including the NHS Pharmacy First service. The pharmacy supplies medicines in multi-compartment compliance packs to some people to help them take their medicines at the right time.

This was a full inspection of the pharmacy. The pharmacy was last inspected in February 2018 and all standards were met.

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 1.1

- The pharmacy has written standard operating procedures. But these have not been updated for several years and there are no records to show when they were last read by members of the team. And the procedures do not cover all aspects of the pharmacy's services. So the SOPs may not always reflect current practice and team members may not always fully understand what is

expected of them.

Standard 1.2

- The pharmacy team discuss mistakes when they occur. But the pharmacy team are unable to show how they record mistakes so they can review and look for underlying trends. So there is a risk some mistakes may be overlooked and the same or similar mistake may happen again.

Standard 1.6

- The pharmacy has not recorded the supplies of medicines it made against private prescriptions during January 2025. So it is not able to provide all of the required information in relation about the supplies that were made.

Standard 4.3

- The pharmacy does not adequately manage its medicines to ensure they are always stored correctly or fit for purpose. Some medicines that need cold storage are not appropriately monitored to make sure they are being kept at the right temperature. Liquid medicines do not always have the date of opening written on, including those with a shelf-life of 4 weeks once opened. So members of the team may not know whether they are still suitable for use. Medicines which have expired are not stored in medicine waste bins to ensure they are disposed of correctly. Some medicines are stored in loose blister strips that have been removed from their original containers, which could increase the risk of errors.

Standards that were met with areas for improvement

Standard 4.2

- The pharmacy does not routinely highlight high-risk medicines (such as anticoagulants, lithium, and methotrexate). So members of the team may not be aware when they are handing these out and so may not always provide appropriate counselling advice.

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	Not met	
1.2 - The safety and quality of pharmacy services are regularly reviewed and monitored	Not 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	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	
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	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.