

# Registered pharmacy inspection report

## Pharmacy name: Apex Pharmacy

**Address:** 204 Essex Road, LONDON, N1 3AP

**Pharmacy reference:** 1040296

**Type of pharmacy:** Community

**Date of inspection:** 01/12/2025

### Pharmacy context and inspection background

This pharmacy is located within a parade of shops in a residential area of North London. The pharmacy mainly serves the local community. It dispenses NHS prescriptions which are mainly received electronically. It also provides the Pharmacy First and Contraception services via Patient Group Directions. And it supplies medicines in multi-compartment compliance packs to some people who need help remembering to take their medicines at the right times.

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

**Overall outcome:** Standards met

**Required Action:** None

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

### Standards that were met with areas for improvement

#### Standard 1.2

- Pharmacy team members try to learn from mistakes. But they don't always record or review them, so they may be missing opportunities to spot patterns or trends and take effective action to help prevent the same sort of things happening again.

## Standard 4.2

- The pharmacy does not routinely highlight prescriptions for higher-risk medicines and does not always ensure that its team members are up to date on guidance. This makes it harder for the pharmacy to make sure that people taking these medicines receive the right information to help them take their medicines safely.

## Standard 4.3

- Pharmacy team members carry out expiry date checks, but they do not always keep a record of these checks. This could make it harder for team members to know that the date checks are being done at regular intervals.

## Standard 4.4

- The pharmacy receives MHRA alerts, but it does not always maintain clear audit trails of the action it has taken. So, the pharmacy may not always be able to demonstrate what it has done in response.

## 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	Met	
1.2 - The safety and quality of pharmacy services are regularly reviewed and monitored	Met	<b>Area for improvement</b>
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	
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 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	<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	<b>Area for improvement</b>
4.4 - Concerns are raised when medicines or medical devices are not fit for purpose	Met	<b>Area for improvement</b>

## 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
✓ <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.