

Registered pharmacy inspection report

Pharmacy name: Central Chemist

Address: 3 Brewery Road, Plumstead, LONDON, SE18 7PS

Pharmacy reference: 1040897

Type of pharmacy: Community

Date of inspection: 14/04/2026

Pharmacy context and inspection background

This is an independent pharmacy situated off a main road, in a parade of shops on a residential area. Its main activity is dispensing NHS prescriptions. Other services that the pharmacy offers include NMS, Pharmacy First service, Hypertension Case-Finding service, free contraception, flu vaccination service and lateral flow device test kits. It supplies multi-compartment compliance packs for people in the community who need this additional support. It also provides a supervised administration service for certain medicines.

This was a routine inspection of the pharmacy which focused on the core Standards relating to patient safety. Not all the Standards were inspected on this occasion. The pharmacy was last inspected in December 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 4.3

- The pharmacy does not have a process for checking expiry-dates of medicines. Some expired

stock is mixed with in-date stock on its shelves. This means people may be receiving medicines which are no longer suitable to use.

Standards that were met with areas for improvement

Standard 1.1

- The pharmacy's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are available on the premises. But the review dates of the SOPs seen have passed. So, this means that the procedures may be less likely to reflect current best practice.

Standard 1.2

- The pharmacy does keep records of mistakes it makes, however these are not recorded consistently. And so, it cannot show that it always learns from things that go wrong to make its services safer.

Standard 1.6

- The pharmacy generally keeps the records it is required to. But it does not undertake regular audits of certain medicines which require additional records. So, this may mean that the pharmacy is less able to identify any errors or loss of these medicines.
- The pharmacy keeps records about emergency supplies. But they are not recorded properly or labelled as emergency supplies. This means that the pharmacy may be less able to rely on the accuracy of these records, and people may receive emergency supplies that are not labelled as such.
- The pharmacy keeps the records it needs to by law. But some records about private prescriptions dispensed do not have the right prescriber recorded. This could mean that this information is harder to find out if there was a query.

Standard 4.2

- The pharmacy does not routinely highlight prescriptions for higher-risk medicines. This could mean the pharmacy misses opportunities to provide ongoing advice and support to these people when they collect their medicines.

Standard 4.4

- The pharmacy receives drug safety alerts and recalls. But it does not keep records of actions taken. This makes it harder for the pharmacy to show it has responded appropriately to these alerts.

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	Area For Improvement
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	Standard not inspected	
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	Area For Improvement
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	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	Met	
3.3 - Premises are maintained to a level of hygiene appropriate to the pharmacy services provided	Standard not inspected	
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	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 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	Area For Improvement

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	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
✓ 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.