

For the attention of:  
GP practices  
NHS England stakeholders

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7 July 2015

Dear colleague,

## **LAUNCH OF INNOVATIVE £15 MILLION PHARMACY PILOTS IN GENERAL PRACTICES**

In January this year we published the GP Workforce 10 Point Plan (“Building the Workforce – the New Deal for General Practice”), which signalled our intention to work with a number of partners to take immediate action to ensure we have a skilled, trained and motivated workforce in general practice.

In that document we highlighted the opportunities to support general practice by piloting innovative workforce initiatives and I am pleased to announce the first of these today.

This pilot aims to test the role of clinical pharmacists in General Practice. Supported by The Royal College of General Practitioners, British Medical Association’s GP Committee and Royal Pharmaceutical Society, it builds on the experiences of general practices, which already have clinical pharmacists in patient facing roles, and in some cases this extends to positions as partners. The pilot will be evaluated so that successes and learning are identified and reported.

Our intention is to invest at least £15 million over the next three years to test out this new patient-facing role in which clinical pharmacists have extended responsibility over and above many current ways of working. Practices have already suggested that this extended role could include the management of care for people with self-limiting illnesses and those with long term conditions and have asked that the new team members have the ability to independently prescribe.

The pilot will be funded for three years with an expectation that practices will continue with the role into year four and beyond. It is anticipated that in the region of 250 clinical pharmacists will be involved over this period with the ambition of supporting over 1 million patients. From today, practices and groups of practices will

be able to bid to participate in the pilot, with practices strongly encouraged to work together to assemble joint bids involving pharmacists across a number of sites. Applications to participate in the pilot will need to demonstrate a case of need in relation to workforce challenges and clinical demands. It is anticipated that clinical pharmacists will be in post early in 2016.

Information about the pilot, including an application pack, is available on the NHS England website at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care-comm/gp-action-plan/cp-gp-pilot/>.

You will find advice about how to submit your application by the deadline of 5pm Thursday 17 September 2015. If you have questions which you would like to raise and are not answered by the FAQs please send an email to [england.clinicalpharmacyenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:england.clinicalpharmacyenquiries@nhs.net).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Hakin', written in a cursive style.

Dame Barbara Hakin  
National Director of Commissioning Operations