

Overview of pharmacy opening hours

David Whiting, June 2018

Opening hours

NHS England is responsible for administering opening hours for pharmacies, which is handled locally by its regional offices.

A pharmacy normally has 40 core contractual hours (or 100 for those that have opened under the former exemption from the control of entry test), which cannot be amended without the consent of NHS England, together with supplementary hours, which are all the additional opening hours, and which can be amended by the pharmacy subject to giving three months notice (or less if NHS England consents). A pharmacy may also have more than 40 core hours where it has made an application based on that higher number, and NHS England has agreed that application, and in this case, the pharmacy cannot amend these hours without the consent of NHS England.

There is also a provision which allows a pharmacy to apply to open for less than 40 hours, but if NHS England does grant such an application, it can specify which opening hours the pharmacy must open.

The terms of service require every pharmacy to send a return to NHS England on request, specifying the opening hours (both core contractual and supplementary hours). This should not be needed as a matter of routine however, a regional office may use this power to request a return, if there is any doubt about the actual opening hours.

In addition to the above regular opening hours, NHS England can commission an out of hours Enhanced service. This service may operate under arrangements similar to the former rota arrangements throughout the year, or could be limited for example to public holidays. For many pharmacies, participation in such arrangements is voluntary, but those pharmacies which opened under the exemptions for 100 hour pharmacies, those in approved large retail areas, and those in one stop primary care centres may have been required by the terms of their application, to provide any Advanced or Enhanced Services that were agreed during the course of the application where NHS England commissions the service.

As a fall back position, if the needs of people in the area are not met, and no pharmacies are able or willing to participate in an out of hours Enhanced service, NHS England has the power to issue a direction requiring the pharmacy to open, but must if doing so ensure the pharmacy receives reasonable remuneration. The process of issuing such a direction begins with discussions with the LPC and the affected contractors must be contacted by NHS England and the proposals outlined so that the contractor can make representations. There are rights of appeal against NHS England decisions to issue such directions, and the direction would be valid only if the statutory procedure is followed. If you need advice on such a direction, consult your LPC (which NHS England is required to consult before issuing such directions).

Source: <https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-regulation/opening-hours/>

How to find a pharmacy

A website run by NHS England helps people to find a local pharmacy. The website is the top result if you do a Google search for “find a pharmacy”

<https://beta.nhs.uk/find-a-pharmacy/>

[Home](#) > [Services near you](#) > [Find a pharmacy](#) > Results

Pharmacies near ME4 4TR

Showing all pharmacies. [Only show pharmacies open now.](#)

0.3 miles away

Brompton Pharmacy

3 High Street, Brompton, Gillingham, ME7 5AA
01634 818499

[Map and directions](#)

[Services available](#)

Open until 1pm today



[Opening times](#)

Monday	8:30am to 1pm 2pm to 6:30pm
Tuesday	8:30am to 1pm 2pm to 6:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am to 1pm 2pm to 6:30pm
Thursday	8:30am to 1pm 2pm to 6:30pm
Friday	8:30am to 1pm 2pm to 6:30pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Out of hours

NUMSAS (NHS Urgent Medicine Supply Advanced Service)

A Service to facilitate appropriate access to repeat medication Out-of-Hours (OOH) via NHS 111, enabling patients to access an urgent supply of their regular prescription medicines when appropriate. This service is a national time-limited pilot service from 1 December 2016 to be reviewed 30 September 2018.

How does Medway compare to CIPFA neighbours?

Review of Pharmaceutical needs assessments produced by CIPFA neighbours (ranked by similarity to Medway; see below). In summary, none of Medway's close CIPFA neighbours has a pharmacy open 24-hours-a-day, all rely on the same approach taken by Medway, i.e. the out of hours medical services provider is able to dispense essential and urgently needed medicines, as agreed in the National Out of Hours Formulary.

(f) Medway	<p>"Access to medicines outside these times is commissioned from the local out-of-hours medical services provider [MedOCC], who has available essential and urgently needed medicines, as agreed in the National Out of Hours Formulary and are supplied where the need for them cannot wait until the 100-hour pharmacy opens." (p20)</p> <p>"The NUMSAS (NHS Urgent Medicine Supply Advanced Service) is currently being rolled out across the South of England by NHS England. Currently all the pharmacies in Medway wish to offer this service and we expect this service to be extended to run until at least September 2018." (p17)</p>
(h) Bolton	<p>"To manage appropriately NHS 111 requests for urgent medicine supply and reduce demand on the rest of the urgent care system, pharmacies have agreed to provide an urgent medicine supply advanced service (NUMSAS). Currently, (on a pilot basis) 11 of Bolton pharmacies provide this service and 27 more have agreed to offer this service in the future." (p3)</p>
(m) Bury	<p>"Beyond the normal working hours practices open, there is an out of hours service operated as an initial telephone consultation where the doctor may attend the patients home or request the patient access one of the clinics. The clinics and travelling doctors have a stock of medicines and depending on the patient and their requirement they may be given medicines from stock or a prescription issued for dispensing at a pharmacy.</p> <p>"GP out of Hours is provided by BARDOC who are part of the local care organisation...Prescriptions from out of hours services can be dispensed by pharmacies with longer opening hours." (p68)</p>
(k) Derby	<p>"To ensure pharmacy provision on bank holidays/ substitute bank holidays, NHS England commission a roster in Derbyshire. Participation by the pharmacies is usually on a voluntary basis" (p137). No mention of 24-hour service.</p>
(n) Kirklees	NUMSAS
(u) Stockton-on-Tees	<p>"Access to medicines in the 'out of hours' period is the responsibility of the NHS commissioned Out of Hours provider." (p141)</p>
(d) Calderdale	<p>"The West Yorkshire Pharmacy Urgent Repeat Medicine (PURM) Service has been replaced by the nationally commissioned NHS urgent Medicine Supply Advanced Service (NUMSAS). This service is a pilot and will run until</p>

	September 2018 to determine whether it will be continued. Its purpose is to facilitate appropriate access to repeat medication out of hours and relieve pressure on urgent and emergency care services by enabling access to repeat medicines, where appropriate, for patients in emergency situations. Patients access this service via NHS 111.” (p42)
(w) Telford & Wrekin	“GP out of hours services are currently provided by ‘Shropdoc’. Shropdoc provide a GP out of hours service to all localities. They hold stocks of emergency drugs that can be issued to patients when pharmaceutical services are unavailable, or if there should be significant difficulty in obtaining medication that was required without delay” (p15)
(e) Swindon	“Currently, there is no community pharmacy open in Swindon between the hours of 23.00 and 05.00 and therefore no general public access at these times. However, during this time the out-of-hours primary care service can, in some emergency circumstances, access medicines held by three pharmacies that are locally commissioned to provide out-of-hours services.” (p28)

Other areas

Thurrock	No pharmacies provide an out of hours service.
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