9 Dispensing doctor practices, hospital pharmacies and other providers

9.1 Dispensing doctor practices

Dispensing doctors provide a valuable service in providing dispensing services in rural areas where a pharmacy may not sustain sufficient commercial business to be viable. However, dispensing doctors cannot supply over the counter medicines to patients as there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

There are 29 dispensing practices in Oxfordshire. 26 take part in the Dispensary Services Quality Scheme which is managed by the Oxfordshire PCT primary care team together with the medicines management team. The dispensing doctors will be consulted on the PNA. Service user feedback relating to dispensing practices was very positive with those patients that get dispensing services telling us that this is important to them.

9.2 Hospital Pharmacy and Primary care

Some hospitals across Oxfordshire - Oxford Radcliffe Hospital Trust, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust, The Ridgeway Partnership – may prescribe using hospital FP10s (FP10(HP) - Hospital prescription pads). These prescriptions can then be dispensed by community pharmacies. Numbers vary with some specialities within the hospital using them more often than others. They are used for medicines which are easily obtained in the community to avoid patients having to wait or attend the hospital pharmacy which will be busy dispensing prescriptions for inpatients.

The majority of patients discharged from an inpatient stay within a hospital will go home with sufficient medicines for at least 21 days, although those patients who need medication compliance aid will normally have less days supply following discussion with both the community pharmacy and GP.

The hospital pharmacy will also dispense some medicines that are more difficult to obtain in the community pharmacy or where there are particular risks associated with medications. For example the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust will dispense methotrexate 10mg which the PCT has advised (due to errors reported nationally) should not be stored in community pharmacies.

9.3 Other Providers

Oxfordshire has 1 Essential Small Pharmacy Local Pharmaceutical Services (ESPLPS), 1 wholly mail order / internet pharmacy and 1 dispensing appliance contractor. No additional services are provided by the Oxfordshire PCT’s medicines management team.

9.3.1 Centrally commissioned supply of Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS)

Community pharmacies are required to make reasonable adjustment to their services to ensure that a disabled person can access all the services offered to the general population (Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and 2005). This includes the provision of a Monitored Dosage Systems to facilitate the correct use of medicines.
However, there are patients who do not fall under the DDA, but still require an MDS to take their medicines safely. These are often those patients that have a carer to administer their medication. Sometimes the local pharmacy will not have the capacity to provide MDS to these patients. Therefore the PCT has commissioned a central service which will provide MDS in these instances.

9.3.2 ONPOS (Online Non Prescription Ordering System)

The ONPOS System was introduced in January 2010 to support cost effective purchasing of dressings across the PCT.

The system allows the online order of dressings which are listed as first line in Oxfordshire PCT’s Wound Management Advice and Prescribing Guidance 2009/2010 directly from North West Ostomy Supplies. The dressings are generally delivered the next working day and the system is available to all practices, district nurse bases and nursing homes across Oxfordshire.

It is expected that 70% of dressings are ordered via the ONPOS system. Second and third line dressings from the formulary are still requested on FP10 and supplied to the patient in the traditional way via a community pharmacy.
10 Equality Impact Assessment

This will be completed after consultation and will be included in the published version of the PNA.