

NHS Lothian Pharmacy Service

Specification of Work

Pharmacy Needle Exchange Support Pharmacist

1. Details of Post

Title: Pharmacy Needle Exchange Support Pharmacist

Immediate Senior Officer: Harm Reduction Team Manager

Reporting to / Professional Accountability: Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse

Unit: Primary Care Pharmacy Services

Location: Spittal Street Centre, Spittal Street, Edinburgh

2. Job Purpose

To contribute to the development of pharmacy needle exchange services in accordance with identified local priorities and needs providing clinical support to pharmacists, pharmacy staff and other healthcare professionals, to improve patient care and outcomes.

To support the implementation of national guidelines for services providing injection equipment within pharmacy needle exchanges in NHS Lothian.

To advise on professional and contractual aspects of the pharmacy needle exchange programme to strategic and operational planning within NHS Lothian through liaison with the Harm Reduction Team and Community Pharmacy Services.

3. Dimensions

To contribute to the organisation and provision of pharmaceutical care to injecting drug users provided from 21 community pharmacies providing a needle exchange service.

The jobholder will work closely with the Harm Reduction Team, Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse, Primary Care Contractors Organisation and Community Pharmacy Services.

Sessional Commitment

Be available to work the equivalent of one day per week for the Primary Care Pharmacy Services. This commitment may have to be flexible to meet the needs of the service and may include some evening work for training sessions.

Integration

Meet on a regular basis with the Harm Reduction Team Manager, Needle Exchange Outreach Network (NEON) Staff and Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse.

Liaise closely with pharmacies in Lothian providing Needle Exchange services. Develop close working links with NHS Lothian Primary Care Contractors Organisation, NHS Lothian Community Pharmacy Services e.g. Lothian Pharmacy Contractors Committee, ePharmacy Facilitator, PLG Lead Pharmacists, Scottish Specialist Pharmacists in Substance Misuse Group, National fora (e.g. Health Protection Scotland, Scottish Needle Exchange Forum).

4. KEY RESULT AREAS

1. Support implementation of the National Guidelines for Services providing Injection Equipment

Guidelines for services providing injecting equipment: Best practice recommendations for commissioners and injecting equipment provision (IEP) services in Scotland (Scottish Government 2009 - to be launched July 2009). Summary of recommendations enclosed. Refer to Hepatitis C Action Plan for Scotland (Phase 2) Action 14.

Work with the Harm Reduction Team (Needle Exchange Co-ordinator), Primary Care Contractor Organisation and Community Pharmacy Services to help manage the transition to support the implementation of national guidelines for services providing injection equipment to injecting drug users within pharmacy needle exchanges in NHS Lothian.

Contribute to planning and developing pharmacy needle exchange services (needs assessment, stakeholder consultation and engagement, staff training, advertising the service, monitoring and evaluation).

Support services and initiatives to increase distribution of injecting equipment needles and non-needle injecting drug injecting equipment.

Provide training to pharmacies to enable an effective and safe service for both pharmacy staff and clients of the needle exchange; individual client's needs are identified and responded to. Inform and involve pharmacy staff in new developments around the service. Seek their views regularly on how the service could operate more efficiently.

2. Improving Needle Exchange Data Collection Systems

Contribute to reviewing data collection tools and processes to support local systems for monitoring, evaluation and audit to enable on-going needs assessment at a local level and allow participation in national data collection requirements in conjunction with NHS National Services Scotland Information Services Division (ISD).

This will involve contributing to design of a new data collection tool and an electronic web-based data collection system and working with pharmacies and the NHS Lothian ePharmacy Facilitator to look at operational aspects of the process; and supporting implementation of these systems.

3. Advise on the professional and contractual aspects of pharmaceutical services concerned with the needle exchange programme to maximise the efficacy and equitable provision of those services to both clients and NHS Lothian; this will include implementation of National Service Specifications for Enhanced Pharmaceutical Services once finalised.
4. Network with specialist pharmacists in other NHS Boards to plan improvements in pharmaceutical care within needle exchange services and share good/highlight poor practice.
5. Contribute to development of guidelines, policies and procedures to encourage best practice and to facilitate, monitor and review their implementation.
6. Undertake surveys, quality improvement and audits as necessary of work undertaken by the Harm Reduction Team, generated internally or by other external agencies.

5. ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW OF WORK

The post holder is a member of the Harm Reduction Team staff and will attend regular staff meetings.

The post holder will be directly managed by the Harm Reduction Team Manager who will undertake regular supervision/discussion and performance development and review. The post holder will have professional accountability to the Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse.

The post holder works within organisational strategic and policy guidelines on a continuous basis and within objectives agreed with the Harm Reduction Team Manager in collaboration with the Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse.

6. MOST CHALLENGING/DIFFICULT PARTS OF THE JOB

To quickly build effective relationships with a wide range of professionals and working across services.

To influence community pharmacy staff to engage in the implementation of national guidelines and improving needle exchange data collection systems; which will involve change in practice.

7. QUALIFICATIONS AND/OR EXPERIENCE SPECIFIED FOR THE POST

(i) Essential

- Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
- Knowledge of community pharmacy
- Experience in the field of substance misuse and pharmacy needle exchange service
- Good communication skills (verbal and written)
- Completion of the NES (Pharmacy) distance learning package 'Pharmaceutical Care in Substance Misuse'
- Training or facilitation skills

(ii) Desirable

- Experience in working to deadlines.
- Experiences of producing a report, for example, audit

8. SPECIFICATION OF WORK AGREEMENT

Post Holder's signature: Date:

Director for Pharmacy's signature: Date:

Clinical Lead, Substance Misuse signature: Date: