

Easy Read

NHS

What is a clinical pharmacist?



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Clinical pharmacists are health professionals who train for many years to become specialists in medicines.



They can work directly with you as part of the GP team to make sure your medicines help you to get better and stay well.



Having a clinical pharmacist in the GP team means you can be treated by the best person to meet your needs.



All pharmacists are registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council.

When will I see a clinical pharmacist?



You will see a clinical pharmacist when you need expert advice on your medicines.



You may need to see a GP first to find out what your illness is.



The GP may then ask you to see a practice nurse or a clinical pharmacist.

Here are some examples of how a clinical pharmacist can help:

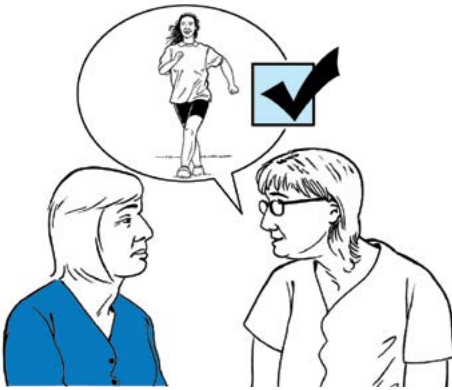
Long term conditions



If you have a long term condition, the clinical pharmacist can talk to you about the medicines you are taking to make sure they are working for you.



Long term conditions are things like asthma, type 2 diabetes, arthritis or high blood pressure.



They can also help you make changes to your life to help you stay well.

Having side effects



If your medicine is making you feel bad, the clinical pharmacist can help by changing your medicine or changing how much medicine you are taking.



If you take a few different medicines, the clinical pharmacist can help you make sure they are all working well together.

Checking your medicines



If you are taking medicines for a long time, you will need to have them checked at least once a year.



The clinical pharmacist can check all your medicines and talk to you about how the medicines are working for you.



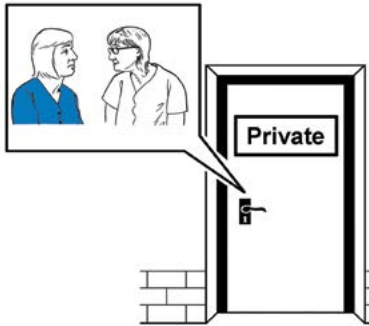
They can also do health checks like taking your blood pressure or making appointments for you to have other tests, like blood tests.

After a stay in hospital



If your medicines have been changed while you were in hospital, the clinical pharmacist can help explain these changes and make sure the medicines are working well for you.

Your appointment



You will see a clinical pharmacist in a private room, just like when you see a GP or a practice nurse.



If you see a clinical pharmacist, you will still be able to see your GP if you need to.



Clinical pharmacists may be able to prescribe your medicines in the same way as your doctor.



Clinical pharmacists can work together with pharmacists in other parts of the healthcare system such as the hospital or community pharmacy.



A clinical pharmacist does not give you your medicines. You have to collect your medicines from a community pharmacy in the usual way.



Please tell the surgery if you can't come to your appointment or you need to make it for a different time.

This easy read document was made by CHANGE
www.changepeople.org



**For more information and case studies
please visit NHS England at:**

[www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care-comm/
gp-action-plan/cp-gp-pilot](http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care-comm/gp-action-plan/cp-gp-pilot)

and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society at:

[www.rpharms.com/our-campaigns/pharmacists-and-gp-
surgeries](http://www.rpharms.com/our-campaigns/pharmacists-and-gp-surgeries)

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