

South West Community Pharmacy

Resilience Planning Guidance

Temporary suspension of NHS pharmaceutical services (unplanned closure)

The South West Community Pharmacy Resilience Guide is a tool created to help support the contractor and pharmacy teams when a temporary suspension of service occurs.

This guide covers:

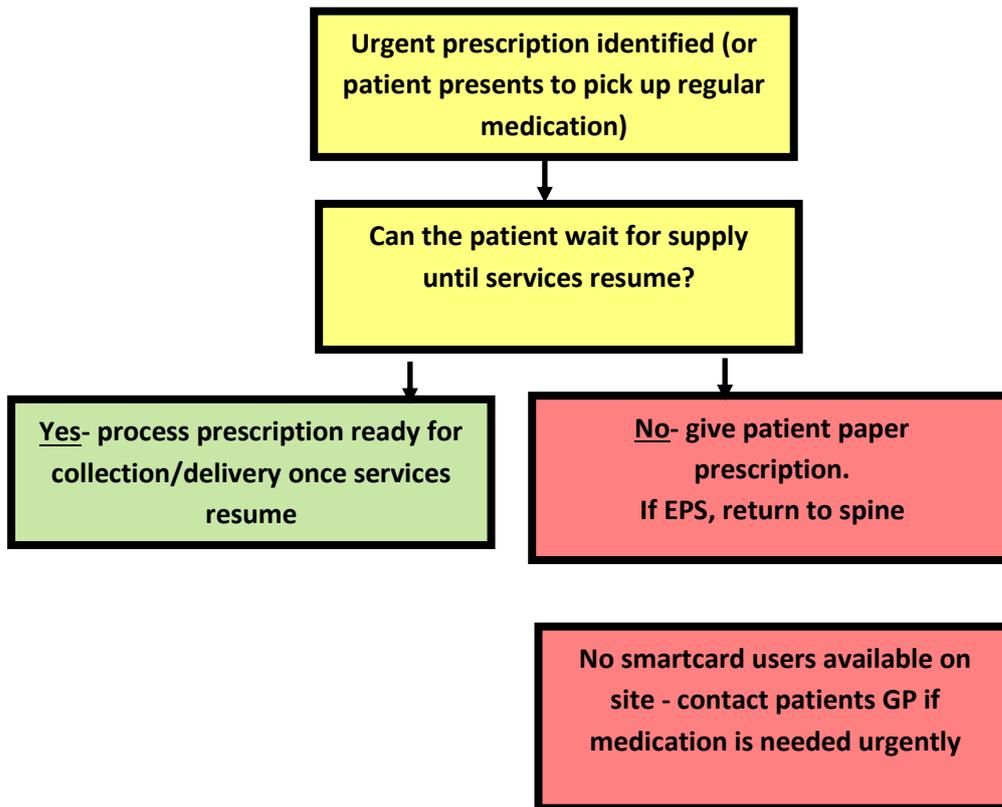
1. Pharmacy Checklist
2. Process for Managing Prescriptions with NHS Services are disrupted
3. Actions Required for a Temporary Suspension of Service
4. Community Pharmacy Resilience Planning

1. Pharmacy Checklist

If your pharmacy needs to suspend NHS pharmaceutical services unexpectedly during usual contracted hours below are a list of tasks you will need to **ensure** are actioned to minimise disruption for patients and other health care professionals:

1. Stakeholders must be kept updated on the status of the pharmacy - ensure your communication plan is clear and include:
 - Commissioner notified of suspension of services
 - Local GP Surgeries notified
 - Directory of Services (DoS) updated for all services
 - Liaise with and update local opiate replacement service commissioner (Contact daily pick up / supervised clients - make alternative arrangements if necessary).
 - Other local pharmacies notified
2. Notice for patients is visible, advising of how long the pharmacy expects services to be disrupted and signposting to closest alternative pharmacy that is open (check hours of other local pharmacies). Template provided [here](#).
3. Staff available on site where safe and practical to do so at the front door or easily accessible to members of the public, to assist them for the full NHS contractual hours.
4. Plan what needs to be done for patients expecting a delivery and / or a Monitored Dosage System to be supplied on the day
5. Identify any urgent/acute prescriptions awaiting processing/collection (see flow chart below)

2. Process for managing prescriptions when NHS services are disrupted



3. Actions required during a temporary suspension of NHS pharmaceutical services

1. Notifications

- **Commissioner (South West Commissioning Collaborative Hub)**

In the event of an unplanned closure, all contractors should report the closure via the Manage Your Service Portal (MYS) [MYS Portal](#) as soon as is practicable.

- **Other providers**

Local GP practices, Community Pharmacies, substance misuse providers contacted and advised of the situation

- **Directory of Services (DoS) via Profile Manager**

The Directory of Services (DoS) is a central directory of information, maintained by NHS Digital, which provides NHS 111 call handlers and others with real-time information about services available to support patients.

Community Pharmacy services and opening hours are included within the DoS and it is important for the efficient working of NHS 111 and other urgent care providers that information on pharmacy services is accurate to allow patients to be appropriately referred to community pharmacies, such as for Pharmacy First.

- Link to amend DoS – [NHS Profile Manager](#)
- Use the NHS Profile Manager tool to up-date both DoS and NHS.UK in relation to hours
- Alternatively, If you need to update DoS and you can't get access on the day of the closure the team at DoS should be able to update on your behalf; the generic contact for the South West is dosteam.southwest@nhs.net.
- If you experience any problems with using NHS Profile Manager, email nhswebsite.servicedesk@nhs.net

2. Display Notices and advice to patients

- Unless unsafe to do so, for example fire/adverse weather event, or impractical, pharmacy staff should be available on site to assist patients who present for the full NHS contracted hours
- Notice clearly displayed for the public explaining how long the pharmacy expects services to be disrupted. Template provided [here](#).
- Notice includes information for the public signposting them to the closest alternative pharmacy that is open - check hours of other local pharmacies here [Find a pharmacy - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

3. Urgent/Acute Prescriptions

- Identify any urgent/acute prescriptions awaiting processing/collection/delivery (see flow chart page 2).
- Contact the patients and explain the situation - can they wait until the pharmacy reopens? If so, no further action required

If they need it sooner:

- Paper prescriptions - request that the patient, or their representative, collects the prescription to take this to another pharmacy
- EPS - if a member of staff with a smartcard is present return the script to the spine and advise the patient to contact another pharmacy to pull down and dispense
- If no staff on site can access EPS, the pharmacy would need to contact the patients GP practice to advise them accordingly
- As above any patients who present for collection of any regular medications which cannot be supplied should be offered their paper prescription, or EPS returned to the spine, to have this dispensed at an alternative pharmacy (see flow chart page 2)
- Contact any daily pick-up clients and advise them of the situation. If the clients will be unable to have their supply via the pharmacy that day contact must be made with the relevant substance misuse provider to make alternative arrangements. If the pharmacy expects service to resume advise the clients of the best time for them to attend.
- If the pharmacy is commissioned to provide other local services, take appropriate action to advise patients and the commissioner of this service.
- Contact any patients expecting a home delivery and advise of the situation. Follow process above if items will be required before services resume.

Community Pharmacy England have also created a checklist and information sheet to help guide contractors through the temporary suspension of service process:

- [Checklist in the event of a temporary suspension](#)
- [Emergency closure information sheet](#)

4. Community Pharmacy Resilience Planning

Pharmacies contracted to provide NHS Pharmaceutical services must ensure they have processes in place to maintain access to services with minimal disruption for patients. As pharmacy services are extended i.e. Pharmacy First, hypertension diagnosis/monitoring and Patient Group Directions (PGDs), maintaining delivery of these services through local pharmacies working together, is also critical to local system resilience.

To help manage resilience, contractors should ensure they have the following resources available, planning for regular review and updates where necessary.

1. Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

Your BCP should include, but is not limited to, contingency planning relating to buildings (including keys to access the premises), utilities, adverse weather, IT infrastructure, equipment, staffing, supply disruption and communications.

BCPs should be tested and reviewed regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose – including considering any single points of failure (e.g. lone key holders) and key contacts.

Community Pharmacy England have also created a briefing and template plan to help guide contractors through the temporary suspension of service process:

- [Briefing 023/23: Business Continuity Plan Temporary Suspensions](#)
- [Template BCP Plan](#)

2. Contacts

Ensure your BCP plan includes, but is not limited to, contact information for:

- Local GP surgeries
- Local Community Pharmacies
- Details of how to update the Directory of Services (DoS)
- Commissioner email address: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net
- Your local Out of Hours / Integrated Urgent Care (IUC) providers (for unplanned closures impacting on access between 6:30pm and 8am Monday to Friday or at weekends/bank holidays.
- If you offer opiate replacement / supervision services, contact information for your patients AND contacts for the commissioner of those service so in the event of any disruption you can liaise with patients and commissioner.

Below are the contact details for your local drug and alcohol service.

- BSW - Swindon Borough Council - SubstanceMisuseTeam@swindon.gov.uk
- BSW - Wiltshire - <https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/connect-wiltshire>, email: substanceUseTeam@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 0034566.
- BSW - Banes - TheBeehive@dhilbath.org.uk Tel: 01225 329411.
- BNSSG - <https://remedy.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/adults/drug-and-alcohol-misuse/bristol-drug-and-alcohol-service/>
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly - Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) DAAT@cornwall.gov.uk
- Devon - [Together - EDP Drug & Alcohol Services](#) Tel: 0800 233 5444.
- Dorset - [Dorset HealthCare :: Addictions \(Alcohol and Drugs\)](#)
- Gloucestershire - <https://www.viaorg.uk/services/gloucestershire-2/>, email: gloucestershire@viaorguk.cjsm.net Tel: 01452 223 014.
- Somerset - <https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/somerset> Tel: 0300 303 8788.

When contacting local partners of a disruption to service, ensure it is clear which elements of service are impacted.

3. Induction

There should be a defined induction process for all new staff, including locums. The induction process for permanent staff should include a training needs assessment in respect of any role they are asked to perform and aligns their training needs with the needs of the business.

4. Locums

Ideally, an additional locum pack should be available which is readily accessible to the staff and locum on site. The locum pack could include key information the locum may need relating to the premises, emergency contact details for the contractor plus contact details for other local agencies, for example GP surgeries, Community Pharmacies, substance misuse providers and DoS. The pack could either signpost the Locum to the BCP or advise who the locum should contact (on or offsite) when situations arise that trigger use of the BCP.

The locum pack could also include any site-specific information relating to the delivery of pharmaceutical services. This should include any NHS locally commissioned services the locum will be required to provide, for example Pharmacy First or services commissioned by other providers such as supervised consumption.

Key information should be easily identified in the locum pack, in the event of sickness in the regular team, recognising that there may be few if any, regular staff on duty.

GDPR requirements must be adhered to with regards to noting and sharing any usernames or passwords with locums.

5. Team Resilience

To support staff, free coaching is available focusing on wellbeing, managing demands, and developing coping strategies. Staff can access information here:

- Wellbeing apps:
 - NHS staff have been given free access to several wellbeing apps to support their mental health and wellbeing.
Link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/supporting-our-nhs-people/support-now/wellbeing-apps/>
- Mental Health and Wellbeing:
 - Guidance and advice on how you can stay mentally healthy and boost your wellbeing from Pharmacists' Support.
Link: <https://pharmacistsupport.org/i-need-help-managing-my/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>
- Addiction support:
 - Information about the free and confidential addiction support provided by Pharmacists Support.
Link: <https://pharmacistsupport.org/how-we-can-help/addiction-support-programme/>
- Managing your finances:
 - Information and guidance on money management and finding financial assistance from Pharmacists Support.

Link: <https://pharmacistsupport.org/i-need-help-managing-my/finances/>

- Physical Health:
 - Support on Physical Health from Pharmacists Support, including how to easily incorporate exercise and healthy eating into your daily routine, and the benefits of doing so.
Link: <https://pharmacistsupport.org/i-need-help-managing-my/physical-health/>
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society Wellbeing Guide
 - Wellbeing Guide from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Link: <https://www.rpharms.com/resources/pharmacy-guides/your-wellbeing>