

THE ROLE OF OUR PRACTICE PHARMACIST

By Mr Usman Afzal MPharm IP

My name is Usman Afzal. I have been with the practice as a clinical pharmacist going onto 3 years now. A lot of patients may already know me and have spoken with me. I have been a qualified pharmacist for 14 years working in a range of roles. I completed my prescribing course in 2018 and am currently undertaking the Advanced Practitioner Course.



I wanted to introduce myself and outline the role I play within the practice and how I, along with the rest of the team, work to ensure that everyone receives high quality and safe care. My biggest role within the practice is ensuring the patients receive the most appropriate and safe medication. This is done in a number of ways:

Clinical Medicine Reviews

These are undertaken to ensure that the ideal medication is being provided, but also involves assessing patients' medical and drug history to ensure any new medication does not cause an interaction with other medications being taken. On the occasion when a medication is not acceptable or is no longer available, I work with both the patient and the GP to find an alternative option.

Prescriptions

Discharge and clinic letters are received from the hospital, this correspondence is firstly checked to confirm the recommendations are safe for the patient to take and then prescribed for the patient to be able to collect and commence with their treatment. A similar process is undertaken for all repeat prescription requests. These are evaluated against each case to ensure the medications are still safe to take and the most suitable for the symptoms.

Training

A part that may be unknown to many is my task in ensuring that all practice members are fully aware of any medication regulations and safety precautions. Occasional formal and informal meetings are held with staff members to give updates on changes to medication regulations.

It can be seen as a clinical pharmacist that my role is to ensure safe and effective medication is delivered to patients for high quality care.

In my free time I like to spend time with family and friends, go to the gym and watch football.

I look forward to working with you in the future.