

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment



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- The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulations 2020 sets out the statutory duty placed upon each Health Board to prepare and publish a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).
- This is Hywel Dda University Health Board's second Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.
- The Hywel Dda UHB Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment:
 - Sets out the current health needs of the population and how they will change over the five-year lifetime of the document (1 October 2026 to 30 September 2031)
 - Describes the current provision of pharmaceutical services by pharmacies, dispensing appliance contractors and dispensing doctors both within and outside of the Health Board's area
 - Considers known changes that will arise during the lifetime of the document such as demographic changes, housing developments, regeneration projects, and changes to the location of other NHS service providers, and
 - Identifies any current gaps in service provision and any that will arise during the lifetime of the document
- The views of residents and stakeholders were gathered via a public engagement exercise. This was conducted between 9 February to 9 March 2026. An on-line survey was launched, with a paper version also available. 451 responses were submitted, which offered an indication of the public's view on current pharmaceutical services available.
- Existing pharmacy contractors and dispensing GP practices were also asked to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire exercise was undertaken between 13 October and 31 October 2025. 95 out of 96 pharmacies completed the questionnaire and four out of five dispensing GP practice sites completed the questionnaire (one dispensing GP practice operates across two sites).

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- 72% (326 people) were female, 25% (113 people) were male. The remaining respondents identified with another gender identity or preferred not to disclose this information.
- The age categories for the largest number of respondents were aged 65-74 years (29%) followed closely by 75 and over years (27%).
- 85% of respondents (384 people) said that the main language spoken/used at home was English. Only 12% (54 people) said their preferred language was Welsh.
- 62% indicated that they access an Independent Community Pharmacy and 33% said that they accessed a Community Pharmacy that is part of a large chain
- 254 respondents indicated that they receive their prescription via paper form and 173 respondents indicated that they receive their prescription electronically
- 144 respondents indicated that they ordered their repeat medication via the NHS app whilst 294 indicated that they order their repeat medication via other methods such as via their pharmacy.
- The main reason for people visiting a pharmacy was to get a prescription for themselves or someone else (420). 295 indicated they use pharmacies to purchase medicines, 270 respondents used pharmacies to obtain advice and 87 went to the pharmacy to access a service. Multiple answers could be given to this question.
- 62%, 278 people receive their repeat prescription every 28 days/monthly and 22% receive their repeat prescription every 56 days/every two months.
- 153 indicated that it takes 3-5 working days from ordering to collecting a prescription, followed closely by less than 3 working days (145 people)



The PNA has also considered any predicted population changes during its 5-year lifespan, housing developments, and whether any gaps in future provision of pharmaceutical services are identified. A summary of the conclusions is set out below:

- ☐ The population of Hywel Dda UHB is well served in relation to the number of pharmacies per 10,000 population and number of pharmacy hours per 10,000 population.
- ☐ The vast majority of the population is well served in relation to the location of pharmacies.
- ☐ Pharmacies are in locations which offer good proximity to GP practices.
- ☐ Access to pharmaceutical services for the residents of Hywel Dda UHB is very good/good/generally good. In the Tywi Taf Cluster area, community pharmacy provision has reduced over the past five years. Despite this, access remains within a 30-minute drive time for all areas. Most pharmacies report sufficient capacity to meet increased demand, over the next 5 years.
- ☐ Based on current service provision, population distribution, and respondent data, no current unmet need has been identified in relation to the provision of GP dispensing services.

The draft PNA was considered by Strategy and Planning Committee on 20 August 2026 and will be taken to Board in September for approval and publication.



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