

It is World Pharmacy Week

In recognition of [World Pharmacists Day](#) on Thursday 25 September, we would like to acknowledge the vital contribution of our pharmacy colleagues in improving health outcomes for our population.

In north west London, we have pharmacists working in numerous sectors, such as the ICB, practices, hospitals, community trusts, community pharmacies and care homes, all contributing to enhancing patient care.

They achieve this through a wide range of activities, from participating in hospital ward rounds and undertaking medication reviews in practices, to [providing services within community pharmacies](#).

An example of a community pharmacy service is the NHS Pharmacy First service, which supports the management of minor ailments and seven common conditions, ranging from sore throat to acute otitis media. Information on this service can be found [online](#).

In north west London, February to July 25 data shows our community pharmacies have delivered over 90,000 consultations for minor ailment and seven common conditions, alleviating pressure on practices and urgent and emergency care settings.

As part of winter preparations, we encourage you to review your practice triaging process and consider referring suitable patients to community pharmacies.

Guidance on how to make a referral can be found below:

[EMIS practices](#)

[SystemOne practices](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care have produced Pharmacy First resources (posters, digital screens) for practices to use in patient waiting rooms or practice website which can be found [online](#).