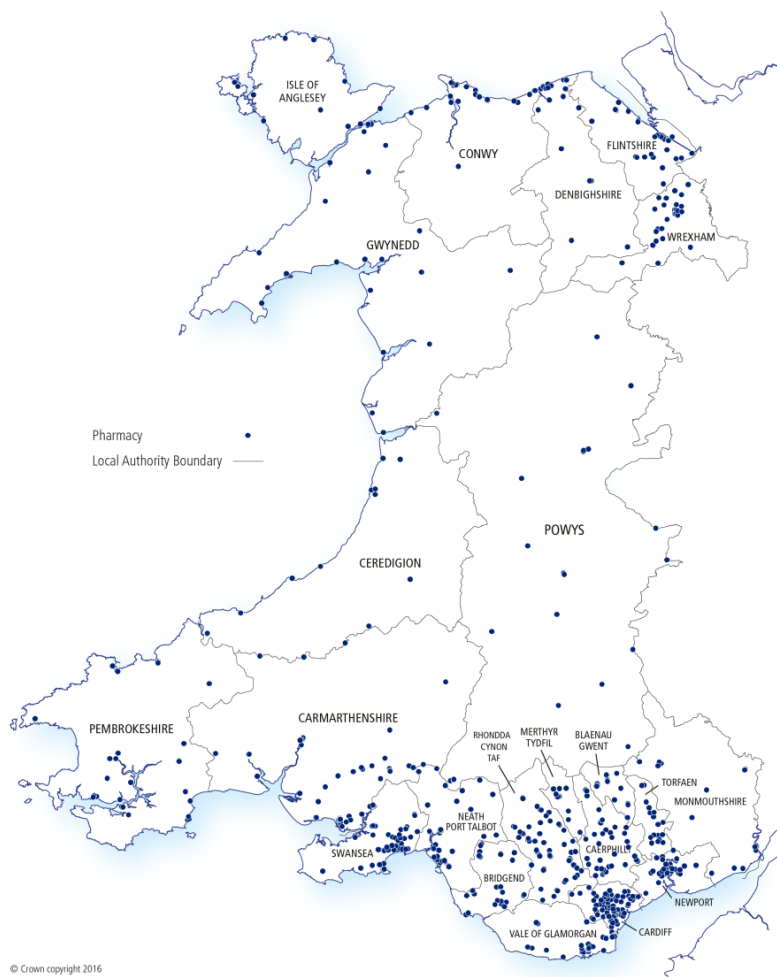




Community pharmacy services in Wales, 2015-16

19 October 2016
SFR140/2016

Map 1: Community pharmacy locations at 31 March 2016



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Cartographics: Welsh Government • MU60/16.17
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OGL

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- There were 716 community pharmacies in Wales on 31 March 2016, the same as on 31 March 2015.
- During 2015-16, community pharmacies in Wales dispensed 73.9 million prescription items.
- Of the 716 community pharmacies:
- **248** (35%) were independent pharmacies (fewer than 6 branches nationwide)
- **678** (95%) provided Medicine Use Reviews (MURs)
- **453** (63%) provided Discharge Medicine Reviews (DMR)
- **328** (46%) provided Seasonal Flu Vaccine (SFV) services, and
- **520** (73%) provided Emergency Contraception (EC) services.

Statistician: Gwyneth Thomas ~ 0300 025 5039 ~ stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Enquiries from the press: 0300 025 8099 Public enquiries: 0300 025 5050

About this release

This annual release presents information about community pharmacies in Wales in contract with Health Boards (LHBs).

The main services which community pharmacies are accredited to provide are described and summarised for 2015-16 and for previous years since the introduction of the current community pharmacy contractual framework in April 2005.

The data is provided by NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (Pharmacy Services).

Further data can be found on StatsWales, our interactive data dissemination service.

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Twitter: [@statisticswales](https://twitter.com/statisticswales)

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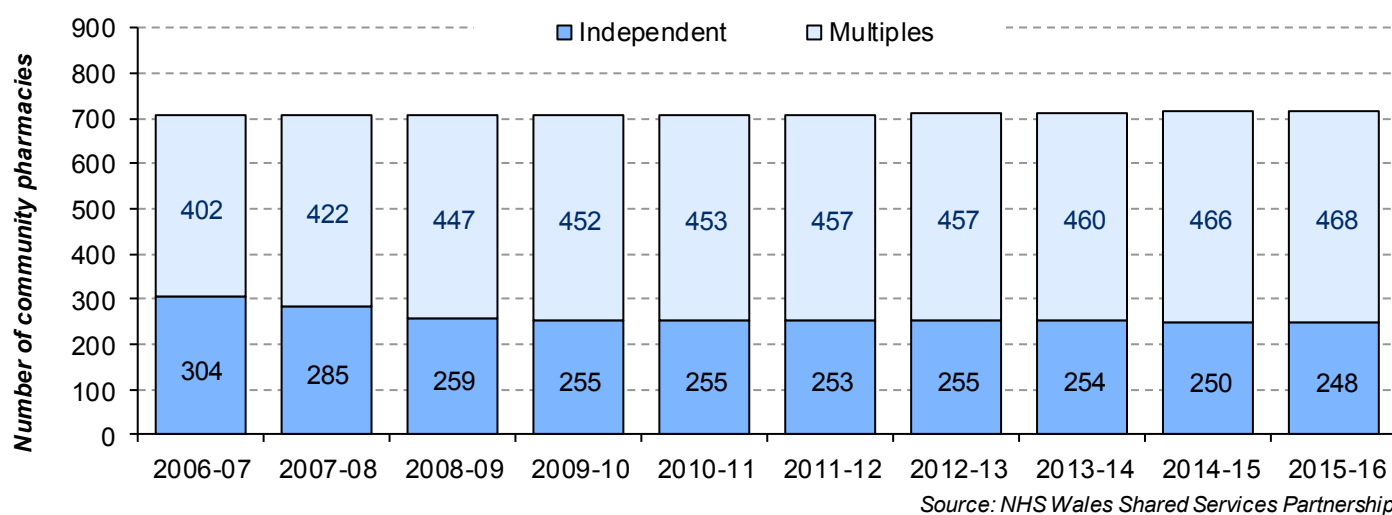
Overview of community pharmacies

Chart 1 shows the number of community pharmacies in Wales since 2006-07, and the split of independent and multiple pharmacies (see note below).

- There has been very little change in the number of community pharmacies in Wales since 2006-07: 716 as at 31 March 2016. There were also 4 appliance contractors.
- However, the proportion of independents and multiples has changed, with 248 independent pharmacies (35%) in 2015-16, down from 304 (43%) in 2006-07.

NOTE: An independent pharmacy is defined as one having fewer than 6 branches nationwide; a multiple pharmacy is defined as having 6 or more branches nationwide.

Chart 1: Number of community pharmacies in Wales



Services

Under the pharmaceutical services contractual framework, services are divided into three categories:

- **Essential** services which must be provided by all community pharmacies.
- **Advanced** services which all community pharmacies can choose to provide dependent on them meeting certain criteria.
- **Enhanced** services which are commissioned locally by Health Boards to reflect the needs of the local population.

Further information is on the [NHS Wales](http://www.nhs.uk) website.

Essential services

Essential services are those that must normally be provided by all community pharmacy contractors. They are nationally agreed services and are not generally open to local arrangement. These services include dispensing, repeat dispensing, disposal of unwanted medicines, promotion of healthy lifestyles and support for self-care.

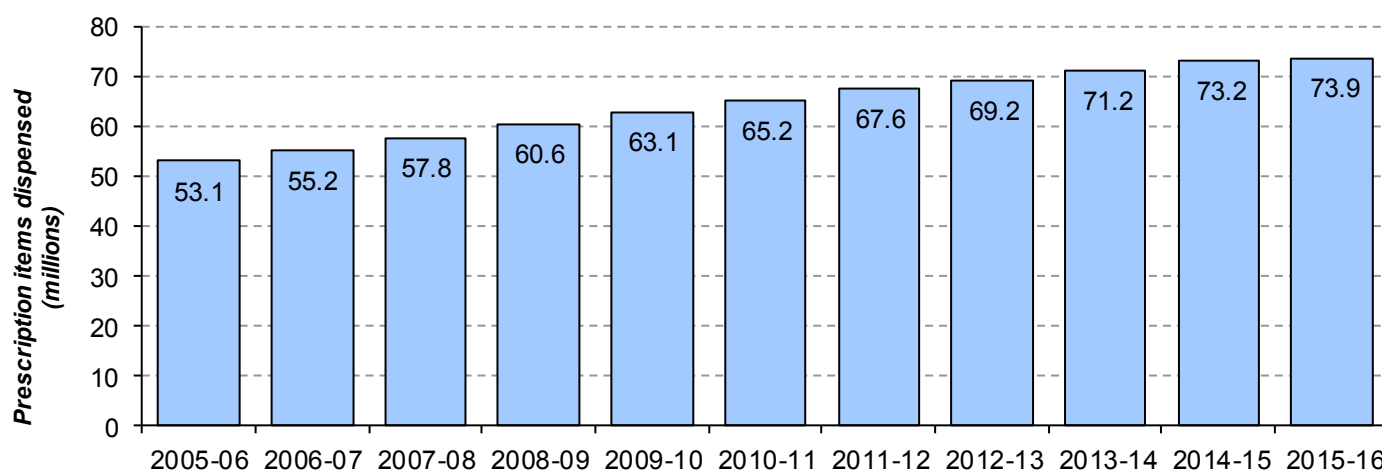
Dispensing

Dispensing is an essential service under the pharmacy regulations.

Chart 2 shows the total number of items dispensed by community pharmacies. Note that this total does not include items dispensed by dispensing doctors, appliance contractors or items personally administered. See [notes](#).

- The number of items dispensed has increased every year from 53.1 million in 2005-06 to 73.9 million in 2015-16 (see the definition of '[prescription items](#)' in the notes pages).

Chart 2: Number of items dispensed by community pharmacies



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Information on items dispensed in Wales is also published in two other publications (see [notes](#) section for links to these publications).

As well as the essential services which community pharmacies are contracted to provide, such as dispensing NHS medicines and appliances, community pharmacies may also provide a number of enhanced or advanced services. A selection of these services is described below. Pharmacies accredited to provide such services may not actually provide them each year.

Advanced services

Advanced services are part of the pharmacy contractual framework and their provision is planned at a national level.

Medicine use reviews

Medicine Use Reviews or MURs (an advanced service) improve the patient's knowledge and use of medicine. MUR services are a national specification service which can be provided by all pharmacists provided they and their premises are accredited to do so. These differ from medicines assessment and compliance support services which are an enhanced service which a Local Health Board may develop and commission in response to local needs.

Table 1 shows the number of pharmacies providing Medicine Use Reviews (MUR) and the number of MUR claims paid.

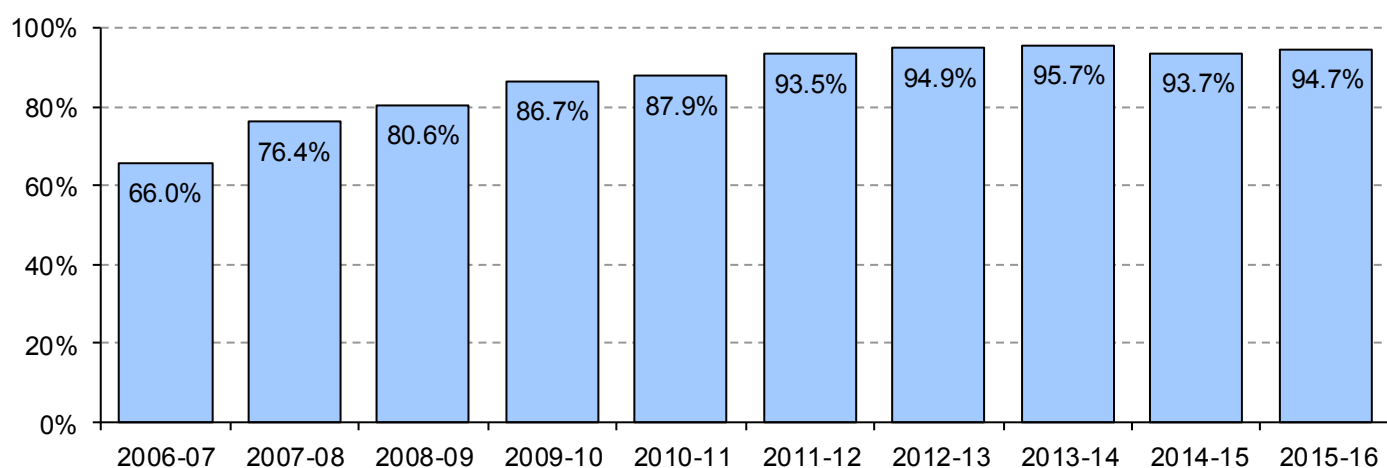
- Of the 716 community pharmacies in Wales, 678 (95%) provided MUR services in 2015-16, up from 94% of pharmacies in 2014-15 and from 66.0% in 2006-07.
- The number of MUR claims paid in 2015-16 was 205,078 - up 3% from 2014-15.
- For those community pharmacies providing MUR services, the average number of MUR claims paid has increased from 65 in 2006-07 to 302 in 2015-16.

Table 1: Community pharmacies providing Medicine Use Reviews (MUR)

Year	Community pharmacies	Community pharmacies providing MUR Services	% of community pharmacies providing MUR Services	Number of MUR claims paid	Average MUR per community pharmacy providing MUR services
2006-07	706	466	66.0%	30,495	65.4
2007-08	707	540	76.4%	60,803	112.6
2008-09	706	569	80.6%	89,930	158.0
2009-10	707	613	86.7%	107,998	176.2
2010-11	708	622	87.9%	129,337	207.9
2011-12	710	664	93.5%	150,050	226.0
2012-13	712	676	94.9%	173,009	255.9
2013-14	714	683	95.7%	189,891	278.0
2014-15	716	671	93.7%	198,383	295.7
2015-16	716	678	94.7%	205,078	302.5

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

NOTE: only claims entered via National Electronic Claim and Audit Forms (NECAF) are included in the above figures.

Chart 3: Percentage of community pharmacies providing Medicine Use Review (MUR)

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Discharge medicines review

The Discharge Medicines Reviews service (DMR) was introduced in Wales on 1 November 2011. The DMR service aims to provide support to patients recently discharged from hospital by ensuring that changes made to their medicines are enacted as intended in the community.

Table 2 shows the number of pharmacies providing Discharge Medicines Reviews (DMR) and the number of DMR claims paid.

- Of the 716 community pharmacies in Wales, 453 (63%) provided DMR services in 2015-16.
- The number of DMR claims paid in 2015-16 was 9,248 – up from 7,689 in 2014-15.
- For those community pharmacies providing DMR services the average number of DMR claims was 20 in 2015-16, the same as in the previous year.

Table 2: Community pharmacies providing Discharge Medicines Review (DMR)

Year	Community pharmacies	Community pharmacies providing DMR service	% of community pharmacies providing DMR services	Number of DMR claims paid	Average DMR per community pharmacy providing DMR service
2011-12 (1)	710	289	40.7%	1,883	7
2012-13	712	460	64.6%	7,693	17
2013-14	714	389	54.5%	7,251	19
2014-15	716	387	54.1%	7,689	20
2015-16	716	453	63.3%	9,248	20

(1) DMR service began 1 November 2011

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Enhanced services

Each Local Health Board is authorised to arrange for the provision of additional pharmaceutical services; these are known as enhanced services.

Table 3: Community pharmacies accredited to provide enhanced services, 2015-16

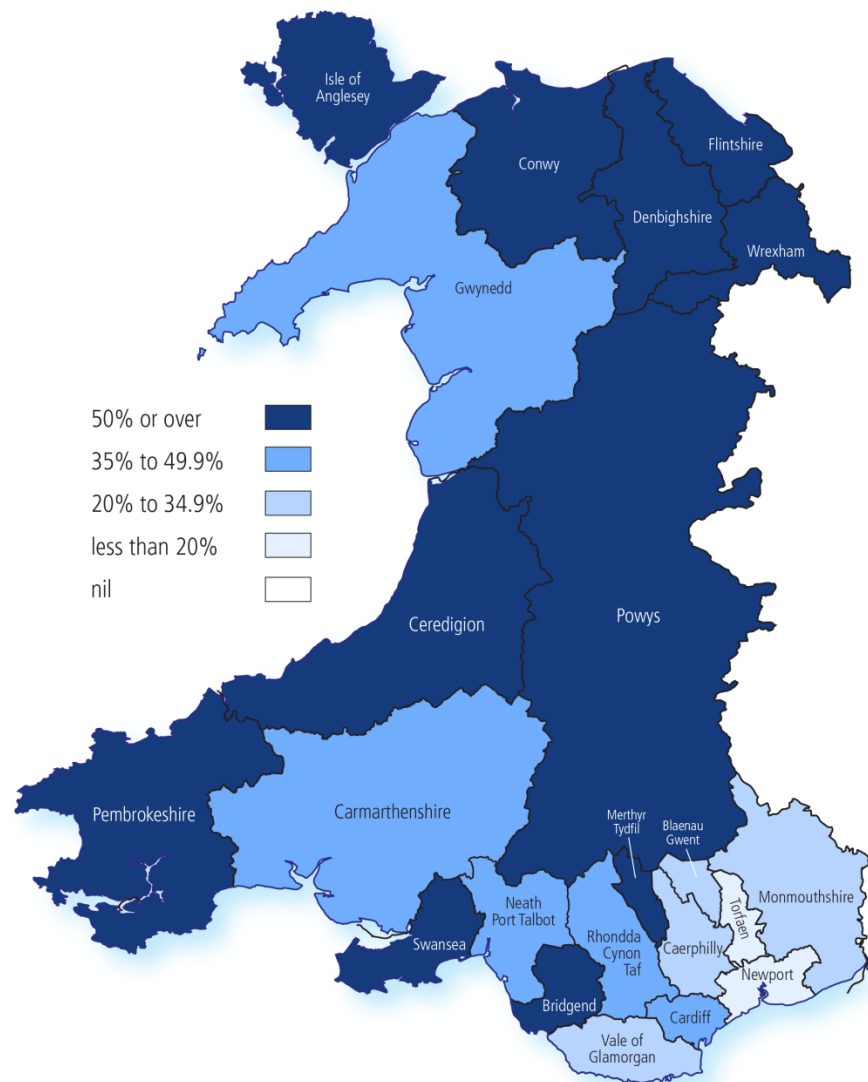
Service type	Number of pharmacies
Provision of emergency contraception	607
Supervised administration of prescribed medicine	527
Smoking cessation level 2	417
Palliative Care 'Just in Case' scheme	358
Medicines management in domiciliary care	356
Seasonal Flu Vaccine	326
Smoking cessation level 3	324
Emergency Medicines Supply	238
Syringe & needle exchange	230
Out of hours	190
Advice to Care Homes	154
Palliative care OOH services	78
Waste Reduction Scheme	73
Minor ailment schemes	52
Common Ailments Service	36

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Details of the above services are available in the [notes](#). Note that Table 3 and Chart 4 show counts of accredited pharmacies rather than pharmacies actually providing services as in Tables 1, 2, 4 and 6.

A detailed report on the [seasonal flu vaccination](#) service during the winter of 2012-13 is available.

Map 2: Seasonal flu vaccine
(percentage of pharmacies accredited to provide the service, by LA)

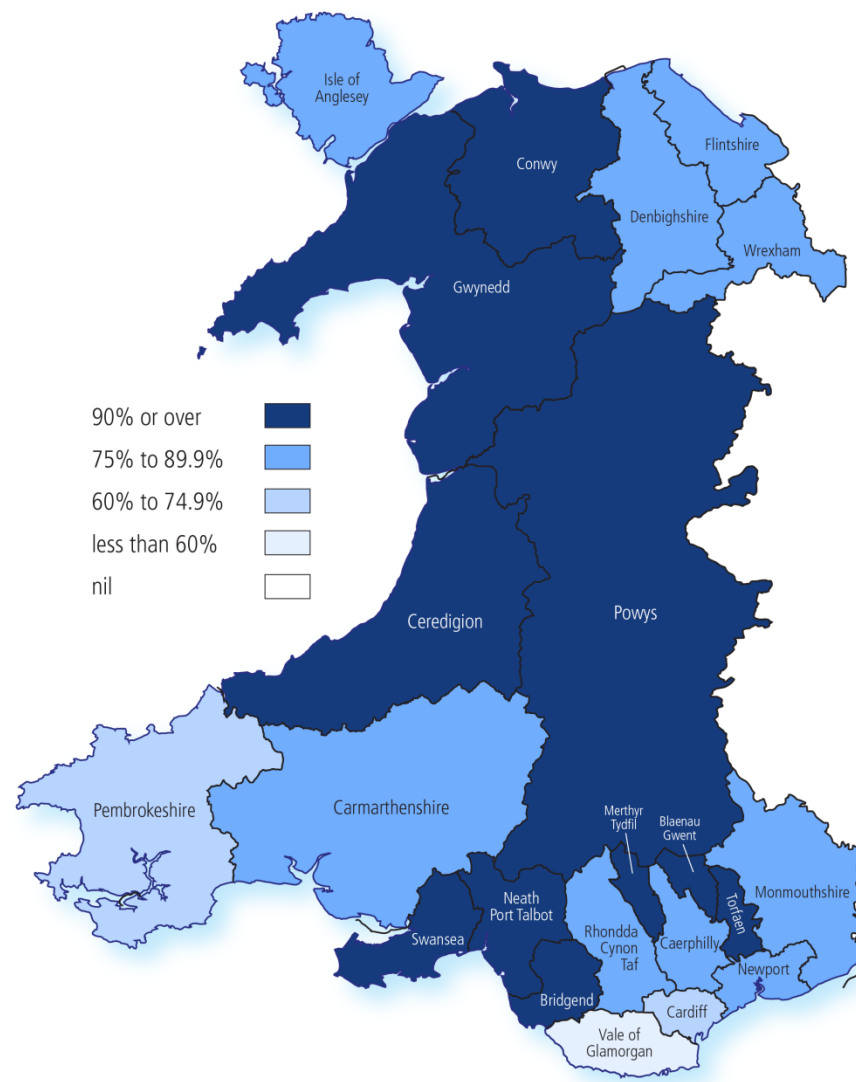


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NOTE: Map 2 scale differs from scales for Maps 3 to 7.

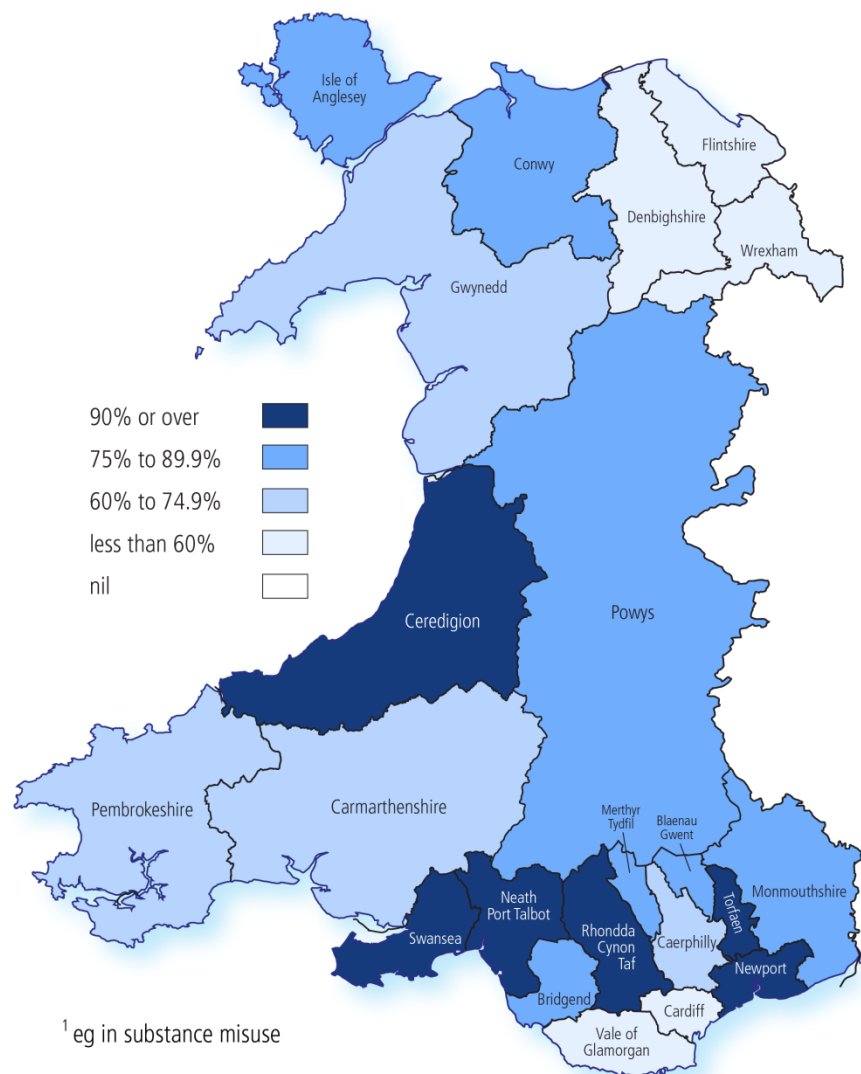
Map 3: Emergency contraception
(percentage of pharmacies accredited to provide the service, by LA)



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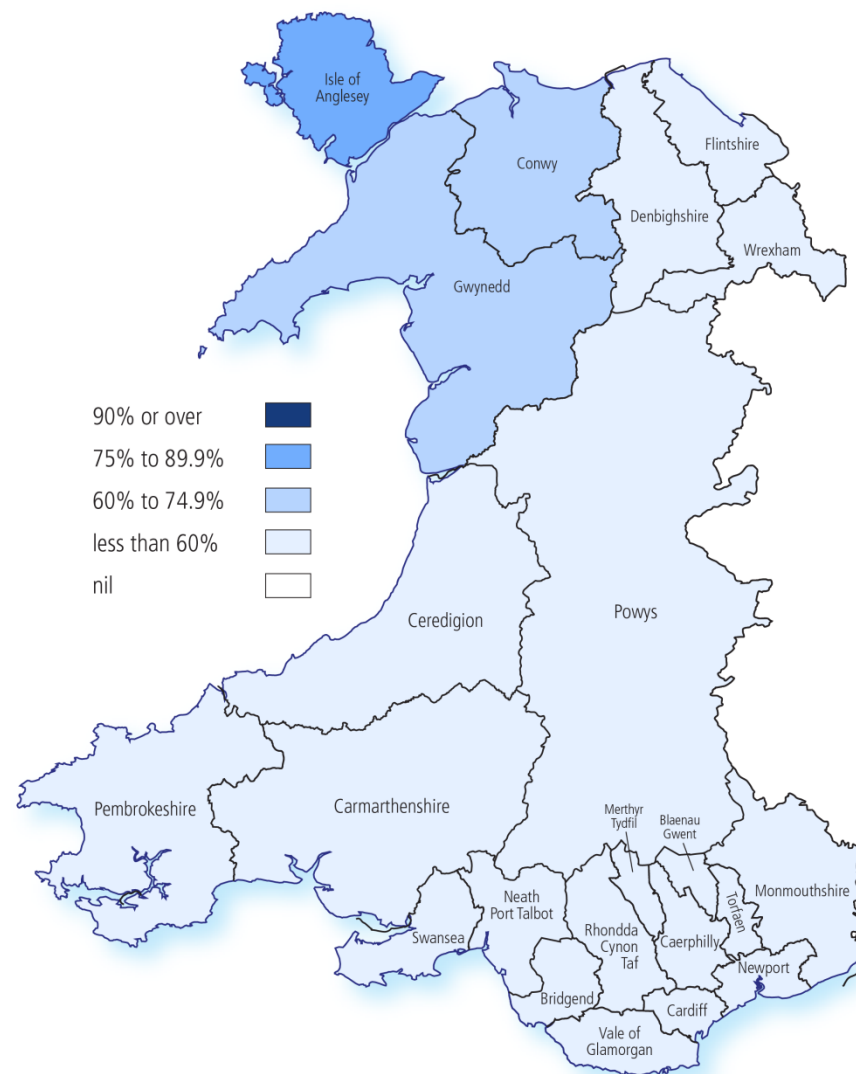
Map 4: Supervised administration of prescribed medicine¹
(percentage of pharmacies accredited to provide the service, by LA)



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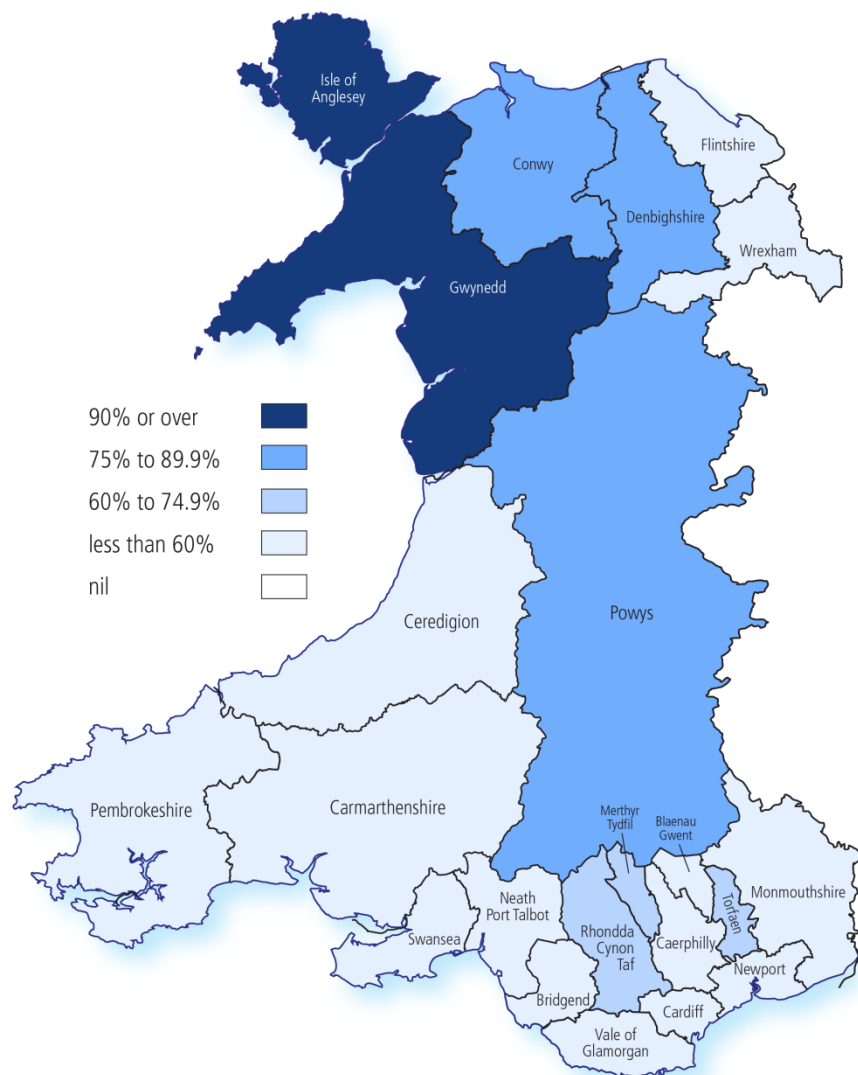
Map 5: Syringe and needle exchange
(percentage of pharmacies accredited to provide the service, by LA)



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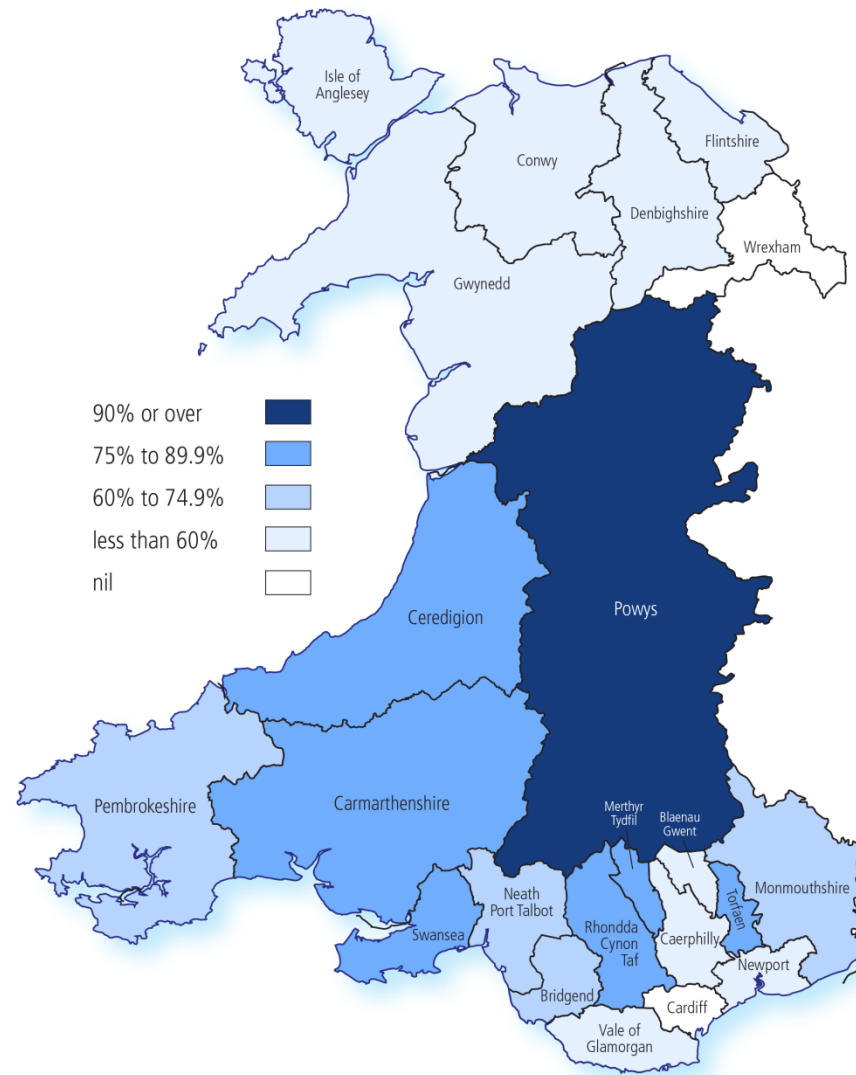
Map 6: Smoking cessation (level 3)
(percentage of pharmacies accredited to provide the service, by LA)



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Map 7: Palliative care 'Just In Case' scheme
(percentage of pharmacies accredited to provide the service, by LA)



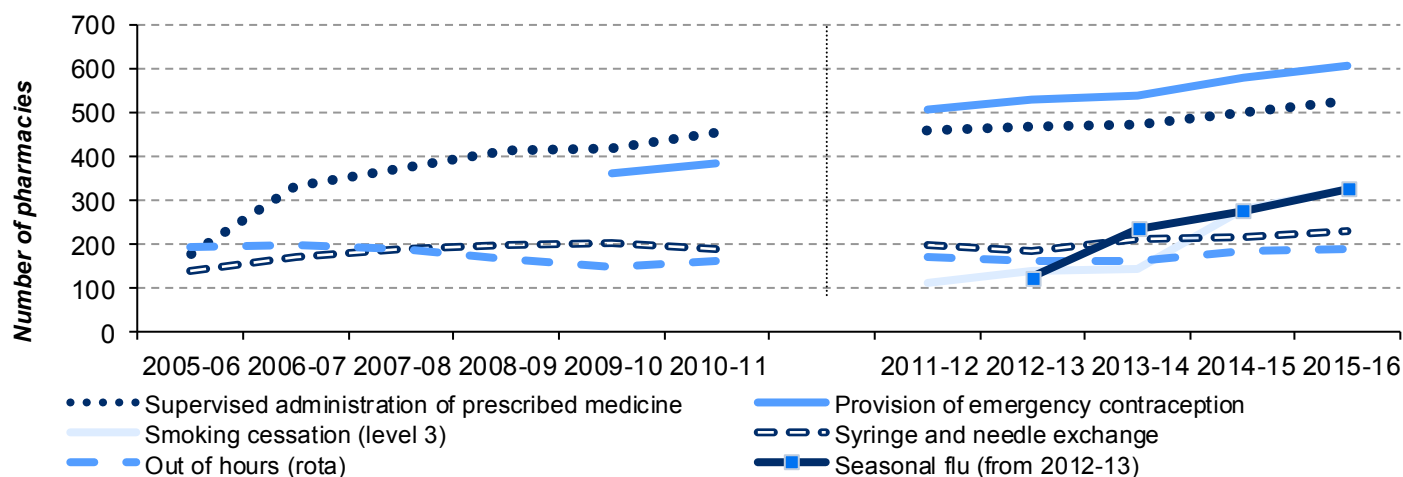
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Chart 4 shows the total number of community pharmacies accredited to provide selected enhanced services.

- From 2011-12, the provision of emergency contraception has been the enhanced service for which most community pharmacies are accredited to provide.
- The number of pharmacies accredited to provide seasonal flu vaccine has increased rapidly from 2012-13 and stands at 326 in 2015-16.

Chart 4: Community pharmacies accredited to provide selected enhanced services



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

NOTES:

- Until 2010-11 this data was collected from the PHS1 form submitted by LHBs. From 2011-12 the data is collected from the All Wales Pharmacy Database (AWPD), and is not strictly comparable with the previous data – a break is shown in the chart.
- Although emergency contraception was offered by community pharmacies before 2009-10 the number of community pharmacies providing emergency contraception was collected for the first time in 2009-10; therefore there is no data for previous years;
- Smoking services recorded in the AWPD, smoking cessation levels 2 and 3, are not comparable with the service shown in this chart in previous editions of this release, 'stop smoking'; which is therefore not included for years before 2011-12.

For further information on services see the [notes](#) section.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine (SFV)

Tables 4 and 5 show the total number of community pharmacies providing Seasonal Flu Vaccine (SFV) and other data relating to the SFV programme.

- 328 community pharmacies provided SFVs during the winter of 2015-16, up from 241 in the previous 2 years.
- For those community pharmacies providing SFV services, the average number of SFVs per community pharmacy was 60 in 2015-16, up from 48 in the previous year.
- 16,419 of the 19,785 people (83%) who received a SFV at a community pharmacy had received one in the previous year.

Table 4: Community pharmacies providing Seasonal Flu Vaccine (SFV)

Year	Community pharmacies	Community pharmacies who provided SFV ¹	Number of SFV claims paid	Average SFVs per community pharmacy providing the service
2012-13	712	127	1,568	12
2013-14	714	241	7,861	33
2014-15	716	241	11,599	48
2015-16	716	328	19,786	60

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

NOTE: ¹ this number may differ from the number of pharmacies accredited to provide the service as it is a count of any pharmacy providing the service during the year.

Table 5: Seasonal Flu Vaccine (SFV) claims paid – selected characteristics

Year	Sex		SFV in previous year		Previous location		Eligibility		
	Males	Females	Yes	No	GP surgery	Community pharmacy	65+	Chronic conditions (1)	Pregnancy
2013-14	3,321	4,533	5,901	1,960	5,035	485	3,927	2,780	233
2014-15	4,860	6,727	9,609	1,990	6,191	3,185	6,521	3,636	248
2015-16	8,432	11,324	16,419	3,366	10,642	5,346	11,458	5,912	420

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(1) Includes Chronic Heart Disease, Chronic Kidney Disease, Chronic Liver Disease, Chronic Neurological Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Diabetes

NOTE: There are a small number of records with some missing data; not all characteristics are shown and do not necessarily sum to the total; these numbers relate to the seasonal flu vaccines given in the year and not to when the claims for payment are made.

Emergency contraception

Table 6 shows the total number of community pharmacies providing Emergency Contraception (EC), formerly called Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), and details of the claims paid, while **Chart 5, and Tables 7 and 8** provide further information on EC services provided by community pharmacies, by age, reason requested EC and time since unprotected sexual intercourse.

- 520 community pharmacies provided emergency contraception during 2015-16, up from 515 in the previous year.
- For those community pharmacies providing emergency contraception services, the average number of claims per community pharmacy was 67 in 2015-16, down from 70 in the previous year.

Table 6: Community pharmacies providing Emergency Contraception (EC)

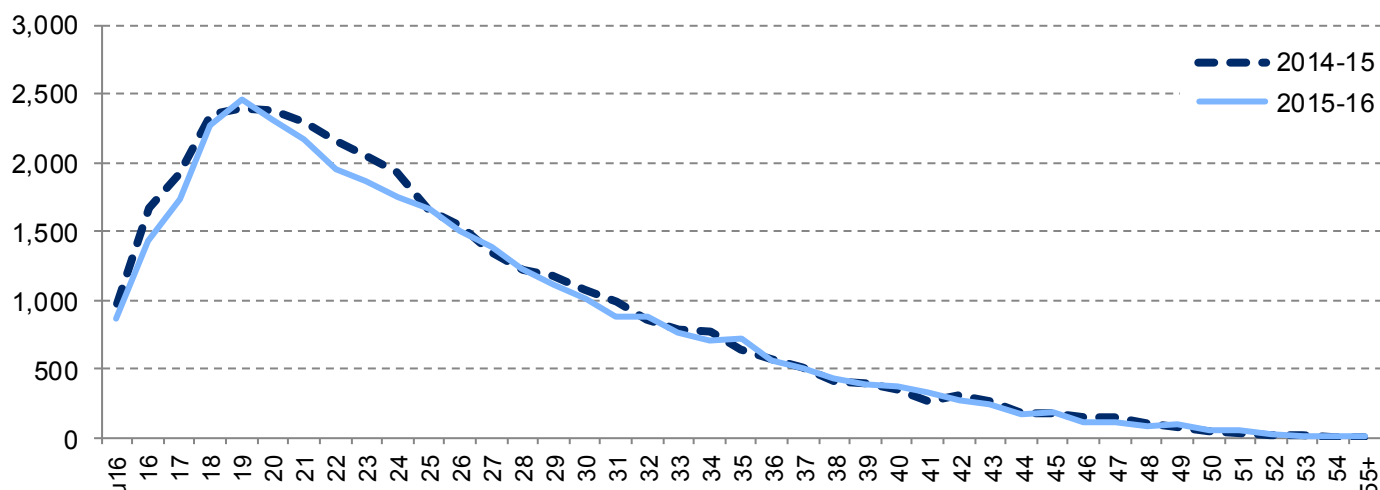
Year	Community pharmacies	Community pharmacies who provided EC ¹	Number of EC claims paid	Average ECs per community pharmacy providing the service
2011-12	710	437	34,695	79
2012-13	712	519	36,675	71
2013-14	714	551	37,527	68
2014-15	716	515	36,202	70
2015-16	716	520	35,096	67

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

NOTE: ¹ this number may differ from the number of pharmacies accredited to provide the service.

Chart 5: Emergency contraception provided by community pharmacies, by age

- In both years, more 19 year olds were provided with emergency contraception than any other age.



NOTE: These numbers relate to emergency contraception provided during the year and not to when the claims for payment are made. Age is not recorded for a small number of cases.

Table 7: Emergency contraception, by age group

Year	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
2014-15	977	8,356	10,833	6,946	4,482	2,525	1,386	637	129
2015-16	865	7,898	10,063	6,891	4,246	2,605	1,398	586	163

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

NOTE: These numbers relate to emergency contraception provided during the year and not to when the claims for payment are made; age is not recorded for a small number of cases. For these reasons totals may not agree with the total claims paid in Table 6.

Table 8: Emergency contraception (EC) claims paid – selected characteristics

- Failure of contraception method was the reason given by 41% of women requesting EC in 2015-16, compared to 43% in 2014-15.
- In both years, almost half (48%) of the women requesting emergency contraception had not used contraception.
- More than two thirds of emergency contraception was provided within 24 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse.

Year	By reason				By time since unprotected sexual intercourse			
	Failure of contraception method	Missed pill	No contraception used	Total	0-24 hours	25-48 hours	Over 48 hours	Total
2014-15	15,840	2,932	17,672	36,444	24,943	9,014	2,487	36,444
2015-16	14,377	3,709	16,835	34,921	23,098	8,721	3,102	34,921

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

NOTE: These numbers relate to emergency contraception provided during the year and not to when the claims for payment are made.

Applications

Anyone wishing to provide NHS pharmaceutical services or dispensing services must apply to the relevant Local Health Board (LHB) to do so in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations Wales 2013 (SI 898 (W.102)). The LHB determines the application and the regulations provide for an appeal to the Welsh Ministers. Permission is also required for minor relocations and changes of ownership. Minor relocations cover pharmacies wishing to relocate over a short distance within the same neighbourhood.

Table 9 shows the numbers of applications during 2015-16 to become a provider¹ of pharmaceutical services, and the status of the applications.

- During 2015-16, 10 applications were made to Local Health Boards to provide pharmaceutical services, including applications outstanding at the end of the year.
- Of these, 1 was granted, 3 were refused, none were withdrawn and six remained outstanding at the end of the year.
- In addition, 14 applications for minor relocations were decided on by LHBs, all of which were granted; a further 3 applications were outstanding at the end of the year.

Table 9: Applications to become a provider of pharmaceutical services, Wales 2015-16

	Applications decided			Withdrawn	Outstanding
	Granted	Refused	Total		
Controlled areas (full applications)	0	1	1	0	1
Non controlled areas					
- full applications	1	2	3	0	5
- minor re-locations	14	0	14	0	3
TOTAL	15	3	18	0	9

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

¹ Notes and definitions

- A General Practitioner may apply to provide dispensing services, such service provision can only be approved for the applicant's patients who reside within a controlled area and are more than a 1 mile radius from a pharmacy which provides NHS pharmaceutical services (Reg 21);
- A pharmacist may apply to provide NHS pharmaceutical services from within controlled and non-controlled localities;
- A controlled locality is an area that has been determined as being rural in character for the purposes of the regulations; a non-controlled locality is an area that has been determined as being urban in character;
- A pharmacist may apply to provide NHS pharmaceutical services from a specific site (Reg 4(4)). They may also apply for 'Preliminary Consent' which allows for an application to be granted without having to name a specific site or address from which it is intended to provide pharmaceutical services (Reg 14). Such grants are time limited and a further application is required by the Regulations once the exact location of the premises has been identified.

Appeals

During 2015-16:

- 7 appeals were resolved, all of which related to applications to open new pharmacies.

Table 10 Appeals relating to applications to become a provider of pharmaceutical services, 2015-16

Application Type	Resolved	Application proceeds	Application does not proceed
Controlled areas (full applications)	2	0	2
Non controlled areas			
- full applications 7 1 6	5	0	5
- minor re-locations	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	0	7

Source: Welsh Government

Key Quality Information

Quality report

We publish a detailed [quality report](#) on 'Community pharmacy services in Wales' statistics. The quality report includes information on definitions and coverage, and details of our users.

Notes

Sources of data

The data is obtained from the [NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership \(Pharmacy services\)](#), Health Boards and the Welsh Government. From 2011-12 information about the services which community pharmacies are accredited to provide has been obtained from the All Wales Pharmacy Database maintained by NHS Wales Shared services Partnership.

Prescribing statistics

Prescription statistics published here are based on information obtained from prescriptions sent to Prescribing Services, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership for payment. [Data captured by Prescribing Services in the prescription pricing and remuneration process](#) are also available on their website.

A large amount of complex data on prescriptions is available from these sources and should be interpreted with the explanatory notes provided. Contact details are provided in case users require further data or advice on interpretation.

Other prescribing and dispensing publications for Wales

In addition to 'Community Pharmacy Services in Wales', information on items dispensed in Wales is also published in two other statistical releases:

[Prescriptions by General Practitioners in Wales](#): contains information on prescriptions written by General Practitioners in Wales. It also covers prescriptions submitted by general practitioners for items personally administered.

[Prescriptions dispensed in the community in Wales](#): contains information on prescriptions dispensed in Wales irrespective of who dispensed them, and includes the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) data.

The information on dispensing presented in the three releases varies because the coverage and relevant time periods are different as follows:

- The PCA data cover all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors in Wales including items personally administered. Also included are prescriptions written in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in Wales. The analyses do not include prescriptions dispensed outside Wales. The data is published for calendar years.
- The prescription statistics in 'Community Pharmacy Services in Wales' are derived from the 'PD1' dataset and relate to items dispensed from community pharmacies in Wales. They do not include items dispensed by appliance contractors, GPs themselves or dispensed outside Wales. This is effectively a sub-set of the PCA data, although the statistics we publish relate to different time

periods (PCA to calendar years and prescribing statistics in the Community Pharmacy release to financial years). The items dispensed by pharmacies accounts for more than 90 per cent of the items included in the PCA dataset.

- The 'Prescriptions by General Medical Practitioners in Wales' release presents prescription items prescribed by GPs in Wales which are subsequently dispensed by community pharmacies, appliances contractors or dispensing doctors. It also covers prescriptions submitted by GPs in Wales for items personally administered. The data is published for financial years.

Definitions

Items dispensed

An item dispensed refers to a single item prescribed by a doctor (or dentist) on a prescription form. If a prescription form includes three items it is counted as three dispensed items. A prescription item may be for a variable quantity eg 14, 28 or 56 tablets.

Services

Under the pharmaceutical services contractual framework services are divided into three categories:

- Essential services which must be provided by all community pharmacies;
- Advanced services which all community pharmacies can choose to provide dependent on them meeting certain criteria;
- Enhanced services which are commissioned locally by Health Boards to reflect the needs of the local population.

For further details please see the [NHS Wales website](#).

Essential services

Essential services are those that must normally be provided by all community pharmacy contractors. They are nationally agreed services and are not generally open to local arrangement. These services include dispensing, repeat dispensing, disposal of unwanted medicines, promotion of healthy lifestyles and support for self-care.

Advanced services

Medicine Use Reviews: Pharmacy premises must be accredited and pharmacists trained and registered to be able to provide Medicines Use Reviews (MURs). The MUR involves the pharmacist reviewing the patients' use of their medicines to improve their understanding of how they should be taken and any potential side effects.

Discharge Medicines Reviews: The Discharge Medicines Review Service (DMR) was introduced in Wales on 1 November 2011. The DMR service aims to provide support to patients recently discharged from hospital by ensuring that changes made to their medicines are enacted as intended in the community.

Appliance User Reviews and the **stoma customisation service** are also advanced services.

Enhanced services

Additional hours services (includes extended hours and Bank Holiday rota)

The provision of pharmaceutical services during an extended period of opening to ensure that people have prompt access to medicines during the out of hours period (whether for the whole or part of that period).

Common ailments service

Involves the provision of advice and support to people on the management of common minor ailments, including where appropriate, the supply of medicines for the treatment of that ailment, for those people who would have otherwise gone to their GP for advice or a prescription.

Medicines management in domiciliary care (formerly Medicines assessment and compliance support service (including the provision of Medication Administration Records (MAR Charts))

The provision of a range of services which support patients and carers to ensure medicines are taken safely and effectively, and may include the provision of medicines administration record (MAR) charts and/or compliance devices; and the provision of additional MURs commissioned by health boards as enhanced services.

Minor ailment schemes

The provision of advice and support to people on the management of minor ailments including minor injuries, including where necessary, the supply of medicines or dressings for the treatment of the minor ailment, for those people who would have otherwise used their GP or other NHS service.

Pharmaceutical advice to care homes

The provision of advice and support to the residents and staff within a care home to ensure the proper and effective ordering of medicines and appliances, their safe storage, supply and administration and proper record keeping.

Palliative care 'Just in Case' scheme

The provision of palliative care medicines for patients for whom it is anticipated that their medical condition may deteriorate into the terminal phase of illness.

Palliative care out-of -hours services

Retaining stocks of agreed specialist medicines which can then be dispensed for patients receiving palliative care without undue delay; the demand for such medicines may be urgent and/or unpredictable.

Provision of emergency contraception

The provision of emergency contraception and sexual health advice through a community pharmacy.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Service

The provision of NHS vaccination against seasonal influenza for persons over 65 or in an at risk group by a pharmacist.

Smoking cessation level 2

The provision of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to patients wishing to stop smoking and who are participating in behavioural support services.

Smoking cessation level 3

The provision of one to one behavioural support and advice to people who want to give up smoking

Supervised administration of prescribed medicine

The supervision of patients when taking specified prescribed medicines to ensure adherence to an agreed treatment plan, typically for medicines where the problems associated with poor adherence have been shown to be significant (e.g. in substance misuse).

Syringe & needle exchange

The provision of sterile needles and syringes, injecting paraphernalia and sharps containers for return of used equipment.

Waste reduction scheme

Involves ensuring that at the point of dispensing the pharmacy supplies only those medicines required by the patient.

Appliance contractor

Each community pharmacy and appliance contractor has an arrangement with a LHB to dispense NHS prescriptions. The arrangement specifies both the premises and the named contractor. Community pharmacies can dispense the full range of drugs and appliances, but appliance contractors are limited to the supply of appliances as listed in Part IXA/B/C of the monthly Drug Tariff published by the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority.

Control of entry regulations

Control of entry regulations require that any pharmacy in Wales wishing to obtain an NHS contract to dispense NHS prescriptions must satisfy the Health Board that it is either 'necessary' or 'desirable' to grant the application to secure the adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in a particular neighbourhood. Permission is also required for minor relocations and changes of ownership. Minor relocations cover pharmacies wishing to relocate over a short distance within the same neighbourhood. Changes of ownership are granted only if the same services will be provided as before, there is no interruption in service provision and no relocation involved. Note that new [pharmacy service regulations](#) came into force in Wales on 10 May 2013.

Controlled locality

An area determined by the relevant Health Board to be rural in character for the purpose of determining applications to provide NHS pharmaceutical services in accordance with regulation 9 of the NHS Pharmaceutical Services (Wales) Regulations 1992/662 as amended or regulation 6 of the NHS Pharmaceutical Services (Wales) Regulations 2013/898.

Key Quality Information

Please see the [Community Pharmacy Statistics in Wales Quality Report](#) for further background and quality information.

Users and uses

The aim of these statistics is to present data which is available from routine administrative sources in an accessible format providing a summary of pharmacy statistics trends over time and patterns across Wales, highlighting the services available across the country. Statistics in this developing area of policy will be useful both within and outside the Welsh Government.

Some of the key potential users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- National Health Service and Public Health Wales;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Professional organisations;
- Individual citizens and private companies.
- The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of the uses include:
 - Advice to Ministers;
 - To inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond;
 - To monitor and evaluate performance and activity in the NHS.
- If you are a user and do not feel the above list adequately covers you, or if you would like to be added to our circulation list, please let us know by e-mailing stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Revisions

Historical data is not revised unless errors are discovered.

Confidentiality

Our statistics take into account our disclosure control guidance and follow ONS confidentiality guidelines for Health statistics available from [ONS best practice guidelines](#).

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

This release is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/prescriptions-general-medical-practitioners/?lang=en>

Further information on methods and quality can be found in the [quality report](#).

Next update

The next release covering 2016-17 will be published in October 2017.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics, which can be provided by email to

stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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