

PHARMACISTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Kete overview

Primary Care Taskforce

Pharmacists are increasingly being integrated into general practice to provide a range of activities within their scope of practice. The benefits of involving a pharmacist in general practice are well recognised.

In some districts across Aotearoa a network of pharmacists providing services across general practices, PHO, community pharmacy and/or hospital settings has been resourced to realise these benefits.

In Waitaha, involving pharmacists in general practice has evolved organically as practices have sought to reduce GPs workload, manage workforce shortages and improve patient care.

As of July 2023, pharmacists were an integrated part of at least 16 general practice teams providing a range of services based on the needs of the practice, population and the hours available.

This kete seeks to inform general practices that are considering involving a pharmacist in their practice and includes:

1. [Services a practice pharmacist can provide](#)
2. [Value, benefits and considerations](#)
3. [Employment models and template documents](#)
4. [Useful resources and sample documents](#)
 - Template position descriptions
 - Template repeat prescribing policy
5. Case studies including videos of local pharmacists and GPs talking about their experiences of integrating pharmacists into practices.
 - [Halswellhealth](#) and [Riccarton Clinic](#)
6. *The game-changing impact of integrating pharmacists into general practice* webinar - view [here](#).

Te Whatu Ora have used the term ‘practice pharmacist’ to describe a clinically focussed role within the general practice setting¹. This kete adopts this term to describe a pharmacist working in a general practice setting.

Further information is available here:

[RNZCGP: Pharmacists in General Practice Report \(2022\)](#) highlights findings from a survey of general practitioners (GP) on how pharmacists work in general practice around Aotearoa and the value provided.

[CAPA: Service Development Toolkit for General Practice based Clinical Pharmacists \(2019\)](#). This was developed to support the introduction of a clinical pharmacist to the General Practice team including a sample of pharmacist activities, factors to consider and sample induction check lists.

[Haua R., et al. Pharmacist integration into general practice in New Zealand \(2019\)](#) describes the characteristics of practice pharmacists, how they are employed, funded and roles performed.

[Te Whatu Ora: Draft Comprehensive Primary Community and Rural Operating Framework v0.7 \(2023\)](#) Page 23. Developed to support the implementation of Comprehensive Primary Care Teams this includes Information about practice pharmacists and pharmacy prescribers.

Haua R. et al, identifying that the ‘economic benefits attributed to practice pharmacists have been savings in medication costs and freeing up general practitioner time, alongside improvements to the quality of patient care in terms of reduced medication errors and improvements in chronic disease management’, (2019).

NHS England stated, ‘Pharmacists remain one of the most underutilised professional resources in the system and we must bring their considerable skills in to play more fully’, (2016).

¹ Te Whatu Ora also state that “practice pharmacist requirements are not clearly defined and vary – but commonly require interdisciplinary clinical practice experience; and that while post graduate training is not required to be a practice pharmacist, holding or working towards a post graduate clinical pharmacy qualification is preferred.