

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY



MP CANDIDATE

YOUR CONSTITUENCY

“Pharmacy Matters”

Our prescription for the nation's health

If elected, I will work to support my constituents' health by calling on the next Government to:

- Build on the success of pharmacist prescribing services to enhance patient access to care closer to home.
- Review prescription charges in England, to create a fairer system for patients across the UK.
- Strengthen the UK's medicines supply chain, so we can ensure patients get the medicines they need.

DATE

I AM SIGNING TO SHOW MY SUPPORT

#VotePharmacy

Supporting pharmacists' contribution to patient care and our NHS

We are at a critical time for our health service, with a focus on patient safety, recurring medicines shortages, advances in technology, and growing pressures on the workforce.

Against this backdrop, the next Government will face some key challenges to support patients and the NHS in 2024 and beyond.

1

Secure patient access to medicines

Scrap prescription charges in England, in keeping with Scotland and Wales, to create a fairer system for patients across Britain – remove this regressive tax on the ill.

Support a review of the UK's medicines supply chain, so we can ensure patients get the medicines they need.

2

Support a better-connected NHS

Fund IT infrastructure to enable all health professionals to access and update a patient's record – to promote integrated, safer care.

Ensure there is a ring-fenced Chief Pharmacist role every Integrated Care System to ensure that medicines safety remains at the heart of the NHS.

3

Enhance accessible prescribing in local communities

Support the further development of pharmacist prescribing services to enhance patient access to care closer to home.

Develop and support pharmacy teams to take a leadership role in prescribing and medicines optimisation, enabling people to live well with the medicines and treatments they are taking.

4 **Maximise health improvement through locally accessible pharmacy teams**

Invest in pharmacists and pharmacy teams to maximise their contribution to person-centred care, public health and prevention, and medicines safety.

Agree fair funding for community pharmacy so patients get faster access to expert care and advice that is locally accessible.

5 **Support the workforce to deliver patient care**

Pass long-awaited legislation on Supervision in community pharmacies so pharmacists can deliver more clinical services.

Invest in education, training and development of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to meet growing demand for their expertise. Enable pharmacy students to access the Learning Support Fund alongside other health professions.

6 **Unlock the potential of new advances in medicines**

Build on the UK's position as a global leader in new medicines, including through clinical trials and advancements in personalised medicine to deliver better outcomes for patients.

Invest in the health and science workforce to ensure they have the skills and capacity to make the most of new technologies, such as pharmacogenomics and digital healthcare.

7 **Support the UK's global position in science and research**

Ensure the UK remains an attractive place for the world's best talent to live, work and study to support our healthcare services, universities and industry.

Continue to support funding for the UK science and research community and support international collaboration to provide world leading scientific research.

Pharmacy in numbers

5 years

It takes **5 years of training to qualify as a pharmacist** – we are the experts in medicines.

8%

Up to **8% of all unplanned hospital admissions are due to medication issues** that pharmacists can help address.

2026

From 2026, all newly-qualified pharmacists **will be able to prescribe**.

1.2m

There are **1.2 million visits to community pharmacies every day** for health-related reasons.

20bn

Pharmacists are vital to supporting the best use of medicines, the most common form of treatment in the NHS, with a yearly spend of £20 billion.

25%

Medicines account for **25% of carbon emissions** within the NHS in England, which can be reduced with greener pharmacy initiatives.

10%

Amid a cost-of-living crisis, **10% of people have avoided taking up one or more NHS prescriptions** because of prescription charges.

64,000

The pharmacy workforce is the third-largest in the NHS, with over 64,000 pharmacists in Great Britain, and needs to grow to meet demand for pharmacy services.

£650m+

The New Medicine Service in England, which provides support for people with long-term conditions who are prescribed new medicine, is leading to **savings of over £650 million for the NHS**.

How you can help



Are you a candidate in the general election?

- Visit a local pharmacist, take a photo, and hear first-hand about how pharmacists make a real difference to your constituents' health.
- Back the pharmacy pledge and use **#VotePharmacy** on social media **@rpharms** to show your support (you can find us on X, Facebook and Instagram too).
- Tell your constituents about how you are supporting the pharmacy profession.

About pharmacists

- Pharmacists work across all aspects of the health service – anywhere where medicines are involved. Around 60% work in local community pharmacies, providing accessible advice and supply of medicines. 15% work in other primary care settings, such as GP practices and Primary Care Networks, supporting safe and efficient prescribing of medicines.
- About 20% of pharmacists work in hospitals, supporting the safe supply and prescribing of medicines across NHS trusts. Pharmacists also work in schools, prisons, mental health trusts, regulatory services and universities, as well as in the pharmaceutical industry supporting the development of life-saving medications.

Email us: campaigns@rpharms.com