



## The Impact of Adding a Practice Pharmacist to the Team in a GP surgery

S Woffinden, M Holmes  
Haxby Group Practice  
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In 2012 Haxby Group employed a Practice Pharmacist. The pharmacist is essentially full time and covers 4 of the York sites equating to 20,000 patients. The pharmacist is an independent prescriber with previous experience in hospital pharmacy and community pharmacy.

### The pharmacist has had a significant impact!

#### The impact on patients

Improved prescription turn around,  
Repeat medication synchronized so needs reauthorisation less often  
Repeat lists up to date with unused items removed  
Patients access to the pharmacist for medication queries  
Prescription problems highlighted sooner resulting in better care  
Close relationship with GPs with appropriate signposting to GPs  
New medication is added to the repeat scripts quickly following hospital discharge - this saves confusion, and increases medication safety and optimises treatment  
Delivers Patient Education events

#### The impact on Reception team

Access for medication queries  
Delivers training related to prescription management  
Resulted in fewer prescription queries

#### The impact on Nurses

Availability for medication advice  
Delivered training for student nurses, practice nurses and those on the prescribing course  
Reviewed clinic templates as new guidance has emerged

#### The impact on Medical Students

Individual tutorials covering pharmacology and prescribing.  
...with Fantastic feedback!

#### The impact on Community Pharmacies

Improved communication  
Improved Pharmacy/Practice relationship  
Proactive management of medicine availability  
Efficient management of medication changes for "tray" patients

#### The impact on Care Homes

Repeat Prescriptions dealt with quickly  
Repeat prescriptions regularly reviewed  
Reduction in polypharmacy  
Improved patient care  
More efficient response

#### The impact on GP Registrars and Advanced Nurse Practitioners

Pharmacist able to give medication and prescribing advice & training

#### The Impact on GPs

Processing/overseeing all prescription requests  
Freed up significant amount of GP time  
GPs focus on more appropriate work eg complex multimorbidity  
Increased same day access to GPs  
Highlights high risk prescribing eg opiate use  
Resulted in drug budget savings  
Provides medication advice service  
Contribute to MDT assessment of 'at risk' patients  
Chronic disease management clinics  
Completes DRUM review for Dispensing patients

#### Future Initiatives

Increased in-house involvement in GP registrar education  
Increased number of Patient Education Events  
Pre-Registration pharmacist placements - increasing knowledge of primary care  
Expand Pharmacist team to cover all patients across the practice and Federation  
Involvement in Acute Care team  
Increased involvement on Chronic Disease management

### In Summary

Introducing a pharmacist to Haxby Group has improved the patient experience as prescriptions are reviewed more regularly, produced quicker, there are more acute appointments for a patient to see a GP, GPs have now got more time to spend on complex patients. Pharmacists also have a clear role in education and training for all practice staff. The clinical role of the pharmacist in the primary care setting is one that has the potential to carry on improving the way GPs work, and improves teamwork with allied health professionals.