

Homecare Pharmacy Services Ltd -Application in respect of a relocation within a HWB area that does not result in significant change to pharmaceutical services provision – supporting information

Current location: Unit Aa, Alanbrooke Industrial Park, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire YO7 3SE

Proposed location: Unit E and Storage Unit, Knaresborough Technology, Manse Lane, Knaresborough, HG5 8LF

Background

Homecare Pharmacy Services Ltd has owned and operated a Distance Selling Pharmacy from its current location since June 2013 and has now reached agreement on alternative premises which are far more suitable for purpose. Both the existing and proposed premises are located within the same North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board area and therefore the applicants wish to relocate to the new site.

A map is attached to this document showing the location of the existing premises as well as the proposed ones.

Existing Location

The current premises are based on a small industrial site off the A167 with very few residential properties close by. The industrial park is surrounded by farmland and there is an animal rehoming centre adjacent to the industrial units. Alanbrooke Barracks are located approx. half a mile north of the industrial park and the village of Topcliffe approx. three quarters of a mile to the south.

Proposed site

The proposed premises are in a very similar environment to the existing ones in that they are also located on an industrial site albeit on a much larger scale than Alanbrooke. There are a mixture of offices, light industrial units and companies such as Travis Perkins in the immediate area. The industrial park is located on the south east side of Knaresborough close to major roads such as the A59 & A658 which will assist with the delivery service offered by our client.

The distance between the two sites is approx. 18 miles with the A1 being the main link road between the two. Both the existing site and the proposed site are within the North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board.

Part 8 of the application form

The pharmacy to which this application pertains is a 'distance selling pharmacy' and as such the conditions set out in Regulation 64 of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulation 2013 apply to its operation. Of particular relevance is 64(3)(a) & (b) which require that pharmaceutical services (other than directed services) are not provided to persons who are present at the listed chemist premises i.e. on a 'face to face' basis. In this case the applicant does not provide any directed services

For this reason, the considerations in respect to pharmaceutical services are different to those of a "standard pharmacy" and the aspects of Regulation 24 are addressed later within this document.

In terms of the operating model at this pharmacy, pharmaceutical services are provided to anybody in England who wishes to access them without 'face to face contact'. The existing patients comprise residents of care homes in the area and individual customers resident in their own homes who choose to receive pharmaceutical services from the applicant.

The key consideration here is that none of the processes already in place will change because of the relocation. All existing patients will be notified of the new address (assuming the relocation is approved) and will be informed that the services they receive will remain unchanged following the relocation. As none of the existing patients visit the pharmacy in person in reality they will have little awareness that anything has changed and, on that basis, clearly they will not find these services any less accessible than they do at the present time.

Addressing Regulation 24(1)(a) requires NHS England to consider whether:

"for the patient groups that are accustomed to accessing pharmaceutical services at the existing premises, the location of the new premises is not significantly less accessible"

We are required, therefore, to consider the patient groups who use the existing pharmacy and the impact of the relocation on each of them to ensure that the proposed location is not significantly less accessible.

As this pharmacy is a Distance Selling operation there is, in fact, only one relevant patient group in this case and that is "patients who receive their pharmaceutical services remotely".

This group includes the following:

1) *Patients whose medication is delivered to their homes*

The delivery service (using delivery drivers, the postal service or couriers as appropriate) will be unchanged as a result of the proposed relocation. The delivery service will be provided

to the same people in the same manner. There will be no change to the way these services are provided. The physical location of the pharmacy is irrelevant for patients receiving pharmaceutical services in this manner therefore the fact that the pharmacy is proposing to move 18 miles is not relevant. Therefore, existing patients will be unaffected by the relocation.

2) Patients receiving pharmaceutical services by email, phone, fax or any other remote communication method.

There will be no change to the way these services are provided. Again, the physical location of the pharmacy is irrelevant for patients receiving pharmaceutical services in this manner therefore the fact that the pharmacy is proposing to relocate is not relevant. All essential services provided in this way, such as public health, signposting and support for self-care will continue to be provided to patients without any changes to the relevant contact details or means of communication.

3) Patients wishing to dispose of unwanted medicines

The collection service provided to patients who wish to dispose of unwanted medication will continue to be provided in the same way.

4) Patients resident in care homes who receive dispensing services from the existing pharmacy.

The arrangements with care homes will be unchanged as a result of the proposed relocation. Care home staff will be informed of the new address, but other contact details will be unchanged. Prescriptions will be collected, and deliveries will be provided in the same way and existing systems for communication between the care homes and the pharmacy will remain unchanged

In summary, all patients receiving pharmaceutical services remotely from our client's pharmacy will continue to receive these services in an identical manner. As they do not visit the existing premises and will not visit the new premises, the location of the new premises is of no consequence to them.

Regulation 24(1)(b) requires NHS England to consider whether:

"in the opinion of the NHSCB, granting the application would not result in a significant change to the arrangements that are in place for the provision of local pharmaceutical services or of pharmaceutical services other than those provided by a person on a dispensing doctor list—

(i) in any part of the area of HWB1, or (ii) in a controlled locality in the area of a neighbouring HWB, where that controlled locality is within 1.6 kilometres of the premises to which the applicant is seeking to relocate;"

In our opinion granting this application will not result in a significant change to the arrangements currently in place.

Whilst the location of the pharmacy will potentially change the operating model will remain the same as the one provided at the current location.

The same patients will receive the same services, in the same way they receive from the existing premises. On that basis there is no reason to believe that the relocation will have any impact on the arrangements in place for the provision of pharmaceutical throughout the Health & Wellbeing Board area.

We are not aware of any plans in place by NHS England or any other relevant body which will impacted in any way by granting this application. The same population will be served by the pharmacy and this will not, in any way, impact on planning in respect of pharmaceutical services provision.

So in conclusion given that the test is whether the new location is significantly less accessible, we believe this application clearly meets all the requirements of regulation 24.

Topcliffe Map

Untitled layer

- 📍 Existing Premises
- 📍 Proposed Premises

