

New Integrated GP and Community pharmacy pathway for the diagnosis and initial management of Hypertension

Dear colleagues,

We are writing to let you know about a new integrated pathway for the diagnosis and initial management of hypertension in adults in general practice and community pharmacy.

The new pathway is attached to this letter and can be found on the clinical pathways website: [Hypertension in Adults - Diagnosis and Initial Management | Clinical pathways \(clinical-pathways.org.uk\)](https://clinical-pathways.org.uk)

This updates and replaces the previous separate GP and community pharmacy hypertension pathways. This pathway has been developed to increase awareness of the community pharmacy service and of referral links between GP and community pharmacy. This will improve access to hypertension diagnosis and management for patients and use all available services in the community.

The pathway has been developed in reference to the most up to date NICE guidance and the NHS community pharmacy hypertension case-finding advanced service specification. It has also been developed in consultation with GP clinical leads for Hypertension, with Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire and Community Pharmacy Essex.

Why is this a priority?

Cardiovascular disease is strongly associated with health inequalities. Currently 62% of adults meet treatment targets for hypertension across the ICS. This new pathway helps to improve the identification, monitoring and management of hypertension. It supports our work towards hypertension targets; to reduce the under detection of hypertension and to improve access, particularly for those who may seek care outside of GP settings.

Tackling hypertension has remained a key priority in successive NHS operational planning guidance, there are two relevant national NHS objectives:

- Increase the percentage of patients with hypertension treated to NICE guidance to 77% by March 2024
- Continue to address health inequalities and deliver on the Core20PLUS5 approach.



We thank you for your support in using this new pathway and in promoting it to your team members, to improve cardiovascular outcomes for patients in Hertfordshire and West Essex.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Nicholas Mistry, GP and Lifestyle Medicine, Prevention and Health Inequalities
Clinical Lead

Dr Hemali Parekh, GP and Lifestyle Medicine, Prevention and Health Inequalities
Clinical Lead

Dr Sam Williamson, Associate Medical Director

Itunu Oluremilekun, Prevention Programme Manager

Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB, July 2023

