

**Community Disability Services in the UK: Origins, Current Functioning, and Their
Importance**

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PHARMACY SERVICES IN THE UK

Providing Safe, Accessible and High-Quality Healthcare through the NHS

WHAT ARE PHARMACY SERVICES?

Pharmacy services play a vital role in the healthcare service delivery system in the United Kingdom. Pharmacy services help patients gain safe access to medications, professional advice, and management of their common diseases. Community pharmacists are highly qualified health practitioners who work alongside other health practitioners such as GPs, hospitals, and dentists.

Main Services:

- ✓ Dispensing medicines
- ✓ Vaccinations
- ✓ Health advice
- ✓ Blood pressure checks
- ✓ Pharmacy First

HOW PHARMACY SERVICES FUNCTION TODAY

Community pharmacists play an essential role within the NHS as they give access to health care services without the need to book an appointment. These pharmacists are responsible for dispensing prescriptions, giving medicine advice, treating minor ailments via the Pharmacy First scheme, providing vaccinations, undertaking blood pressure tests, and helping patients with chronic diseases.

BRIEF HISTORY OF PHARMACY SERVICES

1841

Royal Pharmaceutical Society set up for pharmacy regulation and education.

1948

NHS was created where the services of the pharmacist were provided free of charge based on clinical needs.

1980s – 2000s

More responsibilities have been assigned to pharmacists, such as promoting health, reviewing medication and preventing diseases.

2024 – Present

Pharmacy First gives the ability to pharmacists to treat seven common conditions without going to the GP.



CHALLENGES FACING PHARMACY SERVICES

Problem 1: Pressure from the Workforce and Funds

An increasing number of patients and a lack of personnel have made pharmacists' workloads more intense. Such problems may decrease the capacity of services.

Problem 2: Shortage of Medicines

Medicine supply problems have caused a shortage of some medicines. Therefore, pharmacists have to look for an appropriate substitute.

WHY PHARMACY SERVICES MATTER

- Increase availability of medical services outside of GP appointments.
- Make sure medication is used effectively.
- Prevent illnesses by getting people vaccinated and health screened.
- Provide support for managing chronic diseases.
- Decrease the burden of GP surgeries and hospitals since the Pharmacy First scheme will result in saving up to 10 million GP appointments per year.

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Introduction

The role of community disability services is to assist those having physical, sensory, learning or intellectual disabilities in living as independently as possible in their own communities. Such services provide practical help and health care along with other kinds of support like education, employment, etc., to enhance the lives of such people. This essay will analyze the history of community disability services in the UK, how they work at present and their significance.

Origins and Historical Development

Many people with disabilities in the UK used to reside in long-term institutions, and as a result, they usually had restricted independence and were socially excluded. In the latter half of the twentieth century, the attitude toward disability started changing. The emphasis was laid not only on care within the institution but also on assistance within the community, taking into account that people have the right to live an independent, dignified life and have equal opportunities.

There are several policies and acts that resulted in such changes. For example, the NHS and Community Care Act of 1990 encouraged the provision of care within the community and not the institution. Then the Care Act 2014 promoted person-centered care through assessment and promotion of well-being of the individual. The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination of people with disabilities.

Current Functioning of Community Disability Services

These days, community disability services are provided using teamwork among the NHS, local government, social services, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, and voluntary organisations. The teamwork method allows people to benefit from healthcare services tailored to both their physical and psychological needs.

Such services might include personal care, rehabilitation, adaptive devices, mobility aids, modifications to the living environment, job counseling, educational assistance, respite care, and therapy sessions. The person is often evaluated to determine his/her needs, and then a care plan is created for him/her.

While there have been many improvements within community-based disability services that have enhanced accessibility, there still remain a number of problems. Increased demand, shortage of professionals, lack of finances, and lengthy waiting times

can lead to delays in accessing important services. At the same time, accessibility of specialist support can be unequal across regions. This might lower the efficiency of the services and their quality for people who use them.

Importance in Improving Quality of Life

Community disability services have a significant role in enhancing the quality of life of individuals with disabilities. With personalized support being provided in an environment that is familiar to the individuals, there is promotion of self-reliance, self-confidence, and participation in daily activities. The individuals get the opportunity to stay linked to their families, to receive education or employment, and to participate in the community around them.

With these services, there is encouragement of physical and psychological well-being through management of their medical conditions, acquiring daily living skills, and overcoming social isolation. There is provision of respite services to family members and caregivers who are also offered professional advice to reduce the stress of the caregivers while maintaining constant care for the individuals.

Conclusion

Community-based disability services have developed into services which support the individual within the community environment and promote independent living. The development has been informed by legislation like the Equality Act 2010 and the Care Act 2014 which ensures that support is offered via multidisciplinary teams. Despite difficulties in terms of finance and staff, community-based disability services continue to be an essential aspect in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities in the UK.

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