4.1.2 Dispensing GP practices

The rurality in some areas leads to the existence of dispensing GP practices. Dispensing GP practices make a valuable contribution to dispensing services although they do not offer the full range of pharmaceutical services offered at community pharmacies.

There are 13 dispensing GP practices in Lancashire, unchanged from previous PNAs:

Central Lancashire – 2 (both in NHS Greater Preston CCG)
East Lancashire – 6
North Lancashire – 5 (4 in Lancashire North CCG and 1 in Fylde & Wyre CCG)

The names of the dispensing GP practices within Lancashire are listed in Appendix 5 and their locations shown in map 18.

Out of 1,181,407 people registered with a GP in Lancashire, 114,376 people (10%) were registered with a dispensing GP practice as at April 2014. It should be noted that some of these patients may have an address outside Lancashire, and similarly some patients with an address in Lancashire could be registered with a practice in another county.

Access to GPs in general (not only dispensing practices) doesn’t appear to be as good in Lancashire compared to England. Lancashire-14 has less full time GPs per 100,000 registered population than the England average, 61.9 compared to 66.5. Only NHS Lancashire North CCG has more than average with 77. For locations of GP practices across Lancashire districts see maps 6 to 17.

| Table 2: Average number of full time equivalent GPs per 100,000 registered population, 2013 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                 | All FTE GPs | Average no. FTE GPs per 100,000 population |
| England                         | 32,075      | 66.5                                          |
| Lancashire-14                   | 848         | 61.9                                          |
| NHS Chorley and South Ribble    | 92          | 58.4                                          |
| NHS East Lancashire             | 204         | 57.3                                          |
| NHS Fylde & Wyre                | 86          | 56.3                                          |
| NHS Greater Preston             | 109         | 57.9                                          |
| NHS Lancashire North            | 108         | 77.0                                          |
| NHS West Lancashire             | 56          | 55.9                                          |

Source: HSCIC, General and Personal Medical Services, England - As at 30 September 2013 (Table 11c) [http://digital.nhs.uk/](http://digital.nhs.uk/)
Map 18. Dispensing GP practices in Lancashire

NB The map only shows 11 locations as some practices share the same site.
4.1.3 Distance selling pharmacies

There were 10 mail order/wholly internet pharmacy within Lancashire as of 01/06/14:

- Central Lancashire – 4 (1 in Chorley and South Ribble CCG, 1 in Greater Preston CCG and 2 in West Lancashire CCG)
- East Lancashire – 6
- North Lancashire – 0

It is important to acknowledge that the pharmaceutical regulations does not permit mail order/wholly internet pharmacy providers to see patients face to face. Patients have the right to access pharmaceutical services from any community pharmacy including mail order/wholly internet pharmacy of their choice, provided it is not face to face and therefore can access any of the many internet pharmacies available nationwide.

4.1.4 Dispensing Appliance Contractors

Currently, there are 4 Dispensing Appliance Contractor (DAC) within Lancashire:

- Central Lancashire – 1
- East Lancashire – 1
- North Lancashire - 2

Appliances are available from community pharmacies, dispensing GP practices and other DACs from outside the HWB. From the questionnaires sent out to Lancashire pharmaceutical service providers, out of 188 pharmacies responding, 166 (88.3%) reported that they provided all types of appliances. In addition, some pharmacies provide certain types of appliances.

4.1.5 Hospital pharmacies

There are seven hospitals within Lancashire which have a pharmacy on the premises:

Central Lancashire
- Royal Preston Hospital
- Chorley and South Ribble Hospital
- Ormskirk and District General Hospital

East Lancashire
- Accrington Victoria Hospital
- Burnley Hospitals

North Lancashire
- Royal Lancaster Hospital
- Queen Victoria Hospital
4.1.6 Pharmacy services in prisons

There are five prisons in the area of Lancashire HWB and pharmacy services are available to all 5 prisons.

Central Lancashire
- HMP Preston
- HMP Garth
- HMP Wymott

North Lancashire
- HMP Kirkham
- HMYOI Lancaster Farms

4.1.7 Essential Small Pharmacy Local Pharmaceutical Services (ESPLPS) scheme

ESPLPS pharmacies offered the same essential, advanced and enhanced services as other community pharmacies, but they dispensed fewer than 26,400 items per year. The ESPLPS scheme, which involved giving extra support to some essential small pharmacies, ceased as of 31 March 2015. Therefore, there are no Essential Small Pharmacy Local Pharmaceutical Services Schemes in Lancashire.

However, as of 1 April 2015, NHS England has agreed to support a community pharmacy in North Lancashire to provide services under the Local Pharmaceutical Services (LPS) scheme. This will be based at the Lancaster University campus.

4.1.8 Comparison with findings in the 2011 PNA

In 2011 a patient pharmacy questionnaire was developed for the PNA asking a range of questions. For this PNA we have engaged stakeholders in a variety of different ways and have asked different questions. Therefore it is difficult to standardise the responses.

As well as stakeholder and community engagement, questionnaires were sent out to community pharmacies. When the last PNA was carried out there was a higher return of questionnaires 85% as opposed to 64% this year.

The following changes to the numbers of providers were noted since the 2011 PNA:

- There were 271 pharmacies in Lancashire. This has increased to 295 pharmacies in June 2014.
- There were 13 dispensing GP practices within Lancashire. This was unchanged in June 2014.

The number of pharmaceutical service providers per head of population is higher than in the previous PNA

- Central Lancashire (24 per 100,000 population from 20)
- East Lancashire (27 per 100,000 population from 20)
- North Lancashire (same - 24 per 100,000 population)
4.1.9 Comparison with pharmaceutical service provision elsewhere

Central Lancashire
In Central Lancashire there were 114 community pharmaceutical providers as at March 2014 which means there were 24 providers per 100,000 population (1 provider per 4,000 population). This is slightly lower than the overall Lancashire average of 25 per 100,000 but higher than the national average of 22 per 100,000 (table 3).

East Lancashire
In East Lancashire there were 104 community pharmaceutical providers as at March 2014 which means there are approximately 27 providers per 100,000 population (1 provider per 3,700 population). This is slightly higher than the overall Lancashire average of 25 per 100,000 and significantly higher than the national average of 22 per 100,000 (table 3).

North Lancashire
In North Lancashire there were 76 community pharmaceutical providers as at March 2014 which means there were approximately 24 providers per 100,000 population (1 provider per 4,100 population). This is slightly lower than the overall Lancashire average of 25 per 100,000 but higher than the national average of 22 per 100,000 (table 3).

Table 3. Average numbers of pharmaceutical providers (community pharmacies or dispensing GPs) per 100,000 registered population, 2012/13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average number of pharmaceutical providers (per 100,000 pop.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Lancashire</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lancashire</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lancashire</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significantly HIGHER than the national average


Information about pharmaceutical providers in other areas in England is shown in Table 4. In terms of community pharmacies, there were 22 pharmacies per 100,000 population in England in 2012/13 and the North West of England average was 26 per 100,000. The number of community pharmacies per 100,000 population ranged from 26 community pharmacies per 100,000 population in the North West to 18 per 100,000 population in South Central.
Within the North West of England, the lowest level of pharmacies was 22 per 100,000 population in Bury, Central & Eastern Cheshire, Cumbria and Warrington (table 5). Lancashire has a significantly high number at 25 per 100,000 in (table 3) and this does not include the dispensing practices of which Lancashire has 13. Across Lancashire there were on average 1.96 million prescription items dispensed per month, approximately 1.7 per person which is slightly higher than the national average of 1.4 per person.

Table 5. Community pharmacies on a PCT pharmaceutical list at 31 March 2012/13

| Source: NHS Prescription Services part of the NHS Business Services Authority. |
It is clearly visible from Table 5 that all the neighbouring areas around Lancashire have the same as, or in some cases, a significantly higher proportion of pharmacies than the England average (per 100,000 population) and more than a third have higher than the North West average. If Lancashire residents live on bordering areas or choose to travel to neighbouring areas they would have adequate pharmacy provision.

4.1.10 Results of questionnaires sent to pharmacies and dispensing GP practices

64% of community pharmacies and 77% of dispensing GP practices in Lancashire responded to the PNA questionnaire about service provision. The findings of the PNA questionnaire are presented in Appendix 6.

4.1.11 Considerations of service providers available

The distribution of pharmacies does cover the county well with pharmacies within every district of the county. Maps 19 to 30 show all areas within the Lancashire districts which are within 2 miles of a pharmacy; these include dispensing pharmacies. Access to services in these areas will be further discussed in section 4.2. When reviewing the maps please note that most of the localities outside 2 miles are extremely rural areas and are mainly uninhabited.

Taking into account information gathered for this PNA, the distribution of pharmaceutical service provision in Lancashire is adequate. There is no current need identified for more pharmaceutical providers at this time. However, NHS England Area Team would support relocation of some of the pharmacies, where these are currently clustered, in order to make best use of this resource and attain a better distribution across the Lancashire footprint.

Furthermore, rather than investing resource in new pharmacies, the Area Team would rather use any investment opportunities to develop pharmaceutical services from existing providers, where this is feasible and is consistent with procurement responsibilities. This would be in line with the visions set out in the Five Year Forward View, supporting the delivery of urgent and emergency care and integrating services into a wider primary care model described not only in the Five Year Forward View, but also in the Lancashire LPN’s response to the pharmacy Call to Action.
Map 19: Areas in Chorley within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (Central locality)
Map 20: Areas in Preston within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (Central locality)
Map 21: Areas in South Ribble within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (Central locality)
Map 22: Areas in West Lancashire within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (Central locality)
Map 23: Areas in Burnley within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (East locality)
Map 24: Areas in Hyndburn within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (East locality)
Map 25: Areas in Pendle within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (East locality)
Map 26: Areas in Ribble Valley within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (East locality)
Map 27: Areas in Rossendale within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (East locality)
Map 28: Areas in Fylde within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy Fylde (North locality)
Map 29: Areas in Lancaster within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (North locality)
Map 30: Areas in Wyre within/outwith 2 miles of a pharmacy (North locality)