

Chapter 29

Annex 7

Unforeseen benefits application – best estimate

Application by CA-Health Ltd (the applicant) to open a pharmacy at one of these addresses, 1-154 Bartholomew Steet including The Kennet Centre, 5-19 Market Street, 1-29 Market Place or 1-41 Cheap Street

Explanatory notes by Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB

1. What is this application for?

The applicant wishes to open an NHS pharmacy at one of these addresses, 1-154 Bartholomew Steet including The Kennet Centre, 5-19 Market Street, 1-29 Market Place or 1-41 Cheap Street.

A pharmacy can only give patients medicines prescribed by NHS GPs if it has Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB's permission. We give permission if we think that another pharmacy is needed in the area.

These notes explain the process we follow when deciding whether to give permission.

2. Why have I been sent a copy of the application?

You are being invited to make comments on the application before Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB's takes a decision on whether the pharmacy can go ahead. Any comments must be received before the end of the 45-day period mentioned in the letter.

Applications are not confidential. If you want, you may share details with anyone else who might be interested. They can also make comments within the same 45-day period.

Any comments we receive will be sent to the applicant. They will have a chance to respond to us about those comments.

When we come to make a decision, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB's will consider any comments it has received and any response to those comments from the applicant.

3. What would the pharmacy's opening hours be and what services would it provide?

Section 3 of the application form includes the proposed opening hours.

"Core opening hours" are those which the pharmacy would be unable to change without our permission.

The pharmacy may also open for longer. This is called having "supplementary opening hours". The pharmacy would be able to change these by giving us five weeks' notice.

Every pharmacy must dispense NHS prescriptions, accept unwanted medicines for disposal and give advice on how to treat minor illnesses yourself.

Pharmacies may also offer other services. Most pharmacies offer:

- the community pharmacist consultation service, which is where your GP practice refers you to a pharmacy for help with a minor ailment,
- the New Medicines Service, which is advice when someone starts a new drug, and
- vaccinations against flu.

The services that the applicant is offering to provide are listed in section 4 of the application form. Although the applicant has listed lots of other services, at the moment only the following services listed in the application are paid for in West Berkshire.

4. Why does the applicant want to open a pharmacy?

To be given permission the applicant needs to prove that a new pharmacy would provide “significant benefits”. The reasons why the applicant thinks that there would be significant benefits are included in section 6 of the application form.

5. How will Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB decide whether to give permission for a new pharmacy?

When considering whether to grant the application, we will look at:

- whether or not there is already a reasonable choice of pharmacy
- how easy it is for people who live or work near the applicant’s proposed pharmacy to travel to existing pharmacies
- walking routes, bus services and access by car (including parking)
- whether people who are disabled, elderly, have young children or have other particular needs currently have problems using local pharmacies, and would benefit from the proposed pharmacy
- whether opening another pharmacy would have any significant negative effects.

6. When will a decision be made?

We expect to make a decision by 11 February 2024.

7. What will happen if permission is given?

If we decide to give permission for the pharmacy to open, this does not automatically mean that it will happen. Other local pharmacies may be able to appeal against the decision. Appeals are dealt with at national level by NHS Resolution.

If no appeals are received or if they are rejected by NHS Resolution, the applicant would then have six months to tell us the exact address of the pharmacy. The applicant would then have a further 12 months to open the pharmacy, although this could be extended to 15 months. If those deadlines were not met, then the permission would expire.

8. What if permission is refused?

The applicant would be able to appeal.

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