

Date 04/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9854

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Independent Prescribers.

Question:

1. How many pharmacists are registered as Independent Prescribers (IP's) in your Health Board?

Answer:

298

Question:

2. How does your Health Board assess if a prescriber is active or not?

Answer:

The Lead Pharmacist (non-medical prescribing) receives quarterly data from NES which pharmacists are requested to update annually. We then rely on individual pharmacists, and line managers to advise if a pharmacist is no longer an active prescriber. Currently we are developing processes to ensure that pharmacists inform the Lead Pharmacist Non-Medical Prescribing when their prescribing is temporarily suspended (e.g. parental leave, secondment). In addition, pharmacist prescribers will be required to complete an annual declaration and advise on their prescribing status. Leavers forms are also being updated to ensure that the pharmacist prescriber register is updated in a timeous manner.

Question:

3. How many pharmacists are registered as **active** Independent Prescribers (IP's) in your Health Board?

Answer:

289

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
*Lothian NHS Board is the common
name of Lothian Health Board*

Question:

4. How many pharmacist Independent Prescribers (IP's) are actively working within each sector in your Health Board? Please specify sector and number of prescribers within each.

Answer:

We do not have details of outpatient and inpatient hospital pharmacists. We have 113 active hospital prescribers in total

Sector	Number of active Pharmacist IP's
Hospital inpatient	Unable to give details
Hospital outpatient	Unable to give details
GP practices	124
Community pharmacies	44
Other (please specify sector)	Mental Health - 2 active CAMHS - 3 active Substance Misuse - 3 active

Question:

5. What therapeutic/clinical areas are pharmacist Independent Prescribers (IP's) practising within? Please specify number of pharmacist IP's within each therapeutic/clinical area

Answer:

NB Data is based on NES Quarterly data which is self-reported and prescribers may prescribe in more than one clinical area

Therapeutic/Clinical Area	Number of active Pharmacist IP's
Cardiovascular (hypertension, heart failure, ischaemic heart disease, dyslipidaemia)	22
Common clinical conditions (respiratory tract, ENT, skin, UTI)	41
Endocrinology (thyroid dysfunction, diabetes mellitus)	20
Gastrointestinal (peptic ulcer disease, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, inflammatory bowel disease)	5
Musculoskeletal (osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, pain)	11
Neurology (Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Parkinson's)	2
Oncology (general aspects, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer)	20
Psychiatry (affective disorders, anxiety and sleep, schizophrenia)	11
Respiratory (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)	23
Women's Health (HRT, menstrual, endometriosis)	3

Non-specialist (general practice across multiple sectors)	161 (includes general prescribing within the hospital sector and prescribing within the pharmacotherapy service in general practice)
Other (please specify therapeutic area)	Polypharmacy – 37 Substance misuse – 6 Antimicrobials – 3 Dermatology – 2 Transplant – 4 Geriatrics – 7 Travel – 1 Paediatrics – 7 Haematology – 4

Question:

6. How many pharmacists in your Health Board are currently undertaking independent prescribing training?

Answer:

33

Question:

7. How many pharmacists in your Health Board are waiting to access independent prescribing training?

Answer:

8

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive