

General Information	
Ministerial Decision Type	Miscellaneous
Report Title	Investment in Community Pharmacy
Minister	Social Security
Signatory	Minister
Lead Department	Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SP3)
Lead Directorate	Public Policy (SP3)
Ministerial Decision Summary: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Date decision made if different to date 'Ministerial Decision Summary' signed.	Select date.
Report and Supplemental Report Details	
Report Author	Senior Policy Officer
Date of Report	Select Date of Report.
Supplementary Report Title <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Supplemental Report Title.
Supplementary Report Author <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Official Title Only.
Date of Supplementary Report <i>(If applicable)</i>	Select Date of Supplemental Report.
Ministerial Decision Report: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Relevant Case/Application/URN <i>(Only complete if making a decision related to an appeal where appropriate or allowed under legislation/case/application)</i>	Insert Relevant Case/Application.
Relevant Proposition Number <i>(Only complete if presenting Comments or if lodging an Amendment)</i>	Insert P. number.
Relevant Scrutiny Report <i>(Only complete if presenting a ministerial response)</i>	Insert S.R. number.
Associated Law(s) and/or Subordinate Legislation	Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967
Action required if recommendation agreed	Department to take necessary action.

Resource Implications

This investment package will operate from a budget of £12 Million with actual spend being determined by the extent pharmacy providers apply for funding and the uptake services by Islanders. Some costs are time limited but an on-going spend of £2.7 Million is expected

### Introduction

Community pharmacy in Jersey provides an essential service by procuring and dispensing medicines prescribed by primary care practitioners. Dispensing services are provided alongside over the counter advice regarding medicines and minor elements. Government funding for community pharmacy to date has focused almost entirely on the dispensing service. The Social Security Minister is bringing forward an investment package designed to accelerate the transformation of community pharmacy, needed to respond to the demands of an ageing population. This investment will enable pharmacy to play a vital role in the delivery of the forthcoming Primary Care Strategy.

The investment described here is significant as it seeks to tackle legacy issues and address current challenges in the funding and development of community pharmacy.

### Recommendation

Other

Only insert text if 'Other' selected above.

### Detail

Following discussion with pharmacy contractors and informed by the views of the Health and Community Services Department, the Primary Care Governance Team and expert pharmacy advisors, the Social Security Minister will invest in community pharmacy with a package which seeks to

- Improve patient choice, access to care and health outcomes
- Reduce health inequalities
- Ease pressures on General Practice and create additional capacity in the health care system
- Attract and retain skilled pharmacy practitioners
- Ensure the effective use of public funds

The initiatives described below are strongly aligned to the Common Strategic Policy (CSP) priorities:-

- Ageing Population: Enable people to live active, independent, healthy lives as they live longer.
- Health and Wellbeing: Provide and regulate good quality healthcare and social services, promoting better health and wellbeing underpinned by improvements in public health.

Work is being undertaken to create a Primary Care Strategy, prioritised as a commitment in the Minister for Health and Social Services' Ministerial plan. In preparation for the implementation of this strategy, work must be undertaken with community pharmacy to ensure they can contribute fully to a modern primary care system, creating additional capacity and deploying their unique skill set.

The initiatives and investment comprise:

- (a) Increase to dispensing fees and other beneficial amendments to the remuneration package:

Dispensing fees were last increased in 2014. As part of this investment package increases have been agreed in each of the next three years.

- (b) Increasing period of supply:

Under the Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967, Jersey has a short period of supply where medicines may only be prescribed for a maximum of 30 days on a single prescription but can be repeated on three occasions before a patient must have a further consultation with a prescriber. The short period of supply increases cost for patients and creates inconvenience when they are required to return to their prescriber for a further 30-day supply. It also creates demand on prescribers. Changes will be made so that prescribers can issue medicines for a maximum period of 90 days (and this prescription may be repeated).

In some circumstances a short period of supply is appropriate therefore the period covered by any single prescription will be at the discretion of the prescriber who will act in the best interest of the patient. Increasing the period of supply may reduce prescribing income for Pharmacies, therefore this investment package will offer a transition payment to pharmacies to help them adapt to the new period of supply in the event that they are negatively impacted.

(c) Wage Support Scheme:

Similar to the wage support scheme established for General Practice in 2022, this investment package will bring forward funding to enable pharmacies to recruit and develop Pharmacy Technicians. This will create additional capacity in the pharmacy sector and create the workforce needed to deliver advanced pharmacy services. Funding will be available for the reasonable wage costs of 30 to 35 technicians or accuracy checking technicians.

(d) Funding to become an Independent Prescriber:

Funding to enable Jersey's Registered Pharmacists obtain qualifications to prescribe will support community pharmacy in the delivery of commissioned services. Modern pharmacy degrees now equip pharmacists to prescribe, therefore the development of prescribing roles within either community pharmacy, or as part of a General Practice team is an important development to ensure Jersey is an attractive place for pharmacists to practice.

(e) Advanced pharmacy services:

It is now common for UK pharmacies to offer advanced services and patient consultations. These often focus on the effective use of medicines, improving adherence and reducing medicine waste. Pharmacies can also offer minor ailments services providing an accessible route to care and advice. This package will be developed by working with public health and pharmacy experts to identify a range of services which will address the needs of Islanders and improve health outcomes. The first of these is likely to be a Medicines Adherence Service which will help people take their medicines as prescribed if they, for example, need a reminder or have dexterity issues.

(f) Pharmacy Quality and Performance Framework:

Similar to the Jersey Quality Improvement Framework for General Practice, a Pharmacy Quality and Performance Framework will offer a funding mechanism to support pharmacies with training and preparations to align workforce, activity and premises with the requirements of future services.

These initiatives will be underpinned by work to improve appropriate access to patient information connectivity between community pharmacy and other care providers.

### Financial Consideration

These initiatives will be funded by the Health Insurance Fund and allocated a budget of £12 million over a three-year period. Actual spend will be determined by the number of pharmacies engaging with initiatives such as the Wage Support Scheme or opting to deliver advanced services. Equally, spend in respect of advanced services will be determined by the number of Islanders seeking support from the pharmacy sector.

The table below shows the distribution of this funding over the three-year period commencing May 2023 to April 2026. After 2026 time-limited funding will have been utilised and only reoccurring costs remain. On-going cost will be approximately £3.7 million, some of which will be offset by a decrease in dispensing fee volumes following the increase in the period of supply.

	Year 1 (Commencing May 2023)	Year 2	Year 3
Increased Dispensing Fee	£ 1,060,000	£ 1,730,000	£ 2,430,000
Wage support Scheme / Independent Prescribers (Time limited budget available for investment in recruitment and training)	£ 1,532,000	£ 1,532,000	£ 832,000
Commissioned Patient Services	£ 500,000	£ 650,000	£ 720,000
Quality and Performance Framework	£ 500,000	£ 500,000	£ 500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 3,592,000</b>	<b>£ 4,412,000</b>	<b>£ 4,482,000</b>