

Executive Summary

Community Pharmacy-led Migraine Management Service Pilot

Organisations Involved:

Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria (HI NENC) and AbbVie Ltd

Project Summary:

AbbVie and HI NENC are working collaboratively to design, launch & evaluate a pilot that will test the value of an Independent Prescribing (IP) community pharmacy-led Migraine management service across the NENC region.

The pilot is intended to assess whether this service model may support improved management of migraine in appropriate patients within primary care, and to identify the operational, digital and service requirements that would need to be considered for any future wider adoption.

Subject to pilot outcomes, the project may help inform the development of a framework that could support replication and scale-up in other appropriate settings.

The objectives of the pilot are to:

- evaluate the feasibility and implementation of an independent prescribing community pharmacy-led migraine management service in the NENC region
- assess the potential of the service model to support improved migraine management for appropriate patients
- identify service, workforce, pathway and digital requirements relevant to future scalability
- generate insights to inform consideration of a replicable framework for broader adoption, where appropriate

Potential Benefits:

Anticipated Benefits for Patients

- Improved access to timely treatment for migraine in a primary care setting closer to the patient's home
- Enhanced quality, and experience of care

Anticipated Benefits for the NHS

- Increased consultant capacity for complex neurological cases
- Reduced GP workload through pharmacist-led management for appropriate patients
- Improved data on migraine service utilisation to inform planning and commissioning
- Clear understanding of the Digital requirements for pharmacy integration
- Framework for scalability

Anticipated Benefits for AbbVie

- Demonstrated partner of choice for opportunities to improve patient standards of care for migraine patients.
- Gain valuable insights and develop further understanding of the Framework for scalability to inform further initiatives to improve standards of care for migraine patients.

Financial Arrangements

This collaborative working project will be delivered and evaluated through pooled resources from AbbVie Ltd, HI NENC and participating NHS organisations.

AbbVie Ltd will provide funding of up to £90,882. HI NENC and the NHS will provide an estimated £52,776 in combined in-kind contribution.

Start Date: August 2026

. The project is anticipated to last 12 months

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