

## **Guidance to support business case development for Consultant Pharmacist posts**

### **Background**

The consultant pharmacist post was established as an NHS post in 2005, following publication of guidance from the Department of Health (Department of Health 2005). The post created an opportunity for senior pharmacists to contribute to improving patient outcomes through their high level expertise in specific areas of practice, and through professional leadership, education, mentoring, research and service development.

### **Benefits of the post**

The following statements provide guidance to identify benefits of the post in the desired speciality:

1. Identify the main area of benefit likely with this role, for example:
  - a. Working across sectors and healthcare boundaries to improve patient experience of medicines-related health care and through patient-centred medication review.
  - b. Saving through optimising use of high cost medicines.
  - c. Risk reduction from safer use of high risk medicines.
  - d. Savings through medicines optimisation due to high volume of patients within speciality (even when medicines are lower cost).
  - e. Whole system savings through medicines optimisation leading to:
    - i. Reduced avoidable hospital admission.
    - ii. Reduced avoidable health care utilisation.
    - iii. Better health outcomes through improved medicines adherence.
    - iv. Reduced transfer of care to higher-intensity support settings (e.g. hospital, nursing homes)
2. Identify objectives from local organisation and/or national directives that are potentially met by the role as outlined above.
3. Review the evidence from local staff providing services in similar fields.
4. Contact pharmacy leads in organisations where a Consultant role in the same or a related speciality for information about:
  - a. Similarity of demographics/health needs to your trust.
  - b. Evidence from their post holders of benefit from the role, in terms of potential cost savings, potential risk of drugs, volume of patients in locality.
  - c. Recent business case for a related role.
5. Once the business case has local approval, follow the guidance for post approval, currently organised by Health Education England through the four Deaneries.

If you have any queries, please contact the joint chair of the Consultant Pharmacist Group  
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