

## Guidelines for GP practices considering accepting support provided by the Pharmaceutical Industry via therapy review services or Medical and Educational Goods and Services (MEGS)

Practices may be approached directly by pharmaceutical companies to take part in therapy review services. These services are usually provided by private businesses that are not part of a pharmaceutical company but receive funding from pharmaceutical companies to provide the therapy review services.

Practices should consider adopting the following best practice guide when entering into discussions about joint working with Pharmaceutical Industry:

- It is advised that practices seek the advice of the local Medicines Optimisation Team before agreeing to participate in therapeutic review services offered by third parties: [frimleyicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:frimleyicb.prescribing@nhs.net)
- Advice should also be sought from the local Information Governance Team: [SCWCSU.IGEnquiries@nhs.net](mailto:SCWCSU.IGEnquiries@nhs.net)

### Assurance checklist

Question	Yes/No*
Does the agreement include a commitment to follow the local guidelines and formulary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please ensure that links to these documents have been sent to the service provider:                <a href="http://www.frimleyhealthformulary.nhs.uk/">http://www.frimleyhealthformulary.nhs.uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.frimley.icb.nhs.uk/">https://www.frimley.icb.nhs.uk/</a> </li> </ul>	
Does the agreement include confirmation that individuals providing the service are independent of any pharmaceutical company?	
Does the service address a clinical priority for the practice or ICS? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice can be sought from the relevant ICS speciality clinical group</li> </ul>	
Are there clear benefits to patients from the service?	
Is there a clear written protocol for the service that sets out the responsibilities of the service provider and practice?	
Has the service provider shown proof of indemnity arrangements?	
Has the service provider shown proof of meeting NHS IG standards?	
Is it clear who will take clinical responsibility for the outcomes of the service?	
Has a lead been identified within the practice?	
Do practice staff have capacity to complete any tasks created by the service?	
Do specialist services that may be impacted by this project have capacity for the work that may be generated by the service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice can be sought from the relevant ICS speciality clinical group</li> </ul>	

**\*It is recommended that the answer to all the above questions should be “yes”**

**Acknowledgements:** This document draws on the content of Kent and Medway Position Statement for GP practices considering accepting support provided by the Pharmaceutical Industry via MEGS/therapy review services (August 2022): <https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/media/1496/position-statement-support-from-pharmaceutical-industry-via-megstherapy-review-services.pdf>