

# Midwifery & Public Health

## Maternity and Community Pharmacy: Improving information, advice and guidance for pregnant women in their local community.



The first Maternity and Community Pharmacy Roundtable was recently hosted by St George's Hospital Maternity Service, attendees included hospital pharmacist, community pharmacists, chief executive of Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth and Croydon Local Pharmaceutical Committee, midwives, nurse and a user representative. The aim of the roundtable was to discuss plans for a Pilot Maternity and Community Pharmacy Patient Service in Wandsworth and Merton. The aim is to provide pre-conceptual and pregnant women with long-term conditions such as diabetes and sickle cell disease free information, advice and

guidance via their local Pharmacists. Local Pharmacists are friendly, approachable and are highly trained professionals who can really help. Best of all, they are open for longer hours and on more days of the week than most GP surgeries. They don't require an appointment and there's often no need for queuing or waiting.

Pharmacists not only help with free advice about pregnancy, such as hyperemesis gravidarum, but also offer free, confidential patient counselling on medication safety, side-effects and potential risks to the foetus. They have specialized knowledge about anticoagulation, hypertension, infectious disease, diabetes and HIV medication management. In fact there are very few conditions that Pharmacists have not seen before, and many have a separate Consulting Room if you require more privacy.

Midwifery Futures is planning a series of roundtable meetings to improve education, knowledge sharing and professional collaboration between Maternity and Community Pharmacies. It's designed to improve referrals and signposting, thereby enhancing the Patient Experience on their Maternity Pathway at St George's Hospital, Tooting.

The Maternity and Community Pharmacy Access Project will provide Pharmacists with direct telephone, text and email contact for Midwives and Doctors, also encompassing other services such as Pop-Up Pre-conceptual and Diabetes Clinics, plus in-store advice sessions and joint health & well-being activities within local communities.

Maternity and Community Pharmacy Access Project is aligned with the Healthy living Pharmacy concept, designed to enable pharmacies to help reduce health inequalities within the local community, by delivering high quality health and well-being services, promoting health and providing proactive health advice.

The Maternity and Community Pharmacy Access Project was developed from Midwifery Futures, originally setup to improve professional collaboration, service improvement and an enhanced patient access, involvement and experience.

