

Celebrating 75 years of the NHS



By Jyoti Saini, Senior Principal Pharmacist Medicines Optimisation and MSO



Jyoti Saini

Having worked as a pharmacist for over 25 years, nearly 20 of those within the NHS, I feel proud to say that I work within an NHS organisation.

Many people I speak to are not aware of what an Integrated Care Board is or how this is related to primary care. However, the role I undertake as a pharmacist in this sector has developed and progressed over the many years. I have been able to support GPs, nurses, pharmacy professionals, consultants, physiotherapists, and many other healthcare professionals with their medication questions and prescribing queries.

At the centre of all the work that we do is the patient. I felt that being an independent prescriber was the highlight of my career. Supporting patients with their issues, managing long-term conditions, and being able to work autonomously as a prescriber are all really fulfilling. Sharing the workload within primary care has really enabled true multi-disciplinary working.

Through the Covid-19 pandemic, pharmacists were instrumental in the delivery of front-line services and, importantly, the vaccine delivery. Working at a 'drive-through' swabbing centre and within care homes, to then training others in the management and dilution of the vaccination and administering to patients, really challenged me to further my clinical skills.

Working within the NHS is about making a difference to patients. This involves empowering and supporting them to make the right decision for their health and wellbeing, as well as being the expert that they may turn to for that advice and sustenance.