

PenCycle Recycling Initiative

Novo Nordisk recycling scheme, [PenCycle](#), is being implemented across West Yorkshire to reduce plastic devices entering UK landfills. The recycling scheme is for pre-filled Novo Nordisk pens used for diabetes and weight management treatments.

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership are encouraging community pharmacies across the region to sign-up and participate in the recycling scheme.

Novo Nordisk is asking pen users to return their empty pens so that they can be recycled and given a new purpose. Nationally, around 23 million pre-filled pens are distributed each year, with around 360,000 of those going to homes across West Yorkshire. PenCycle will not only help reduce waste and advance the sustainability agenda of community pharmacy, but it will also support the transition of the UK health sector and help achieve NHS critical environmental targets.

Patients will be able to return their FlexPen® and FlexTouch® devices using a PenCycle return box via:

- Participating community pharmacies
- Royal Mail (pre-paid label on the return box)
- An 'at home' collection service specifically for growth hormone pens

Every pen that is returned will be sent to a specialist facility in Denmark to be recycled. The plastic is repurposed into new furniture and the glass into lightbulbs. PenCycle return boxes are also recycled as part of the process.

Pharmacies that sign up to the scheme will receive a welcome pack, materials and a returns box provided free of charge by Alliance Healthcare who will also collect the returns boxes when full. PenCycle has been rolling out nationally since September, following pilots in Greater Manchester, Leicestershire & Rutland, and Glasgow.

See the [green plan](#) to read more about the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership's green ambitions.

PenCycle is free of charge. All materials needed to start patients recycling their used pens will be made available to you. The scheme has been developed to work within your daily processes and systems to ensure minimal workload is needed.

Thinking of Signing Up? Key Points to Consider

- Your pharmacy premises will need adequate storage space for the return boxes (pictured) in a secure and dry environment, away from damp.
- Some pharmacies may already use these boxes for non-sharps pharmaceutical waste – to avoid confusion boxes being used as part of the PenCycle scheme may need to be kept segregated from other waste disposal boxes.
- The return boxes are collected by Alliance Healthcare. If you use another wholesaler, have minimal deliveries from Alliance Healthcare or are unlikely to get many pens returned you can signpost patients to other local pharmacies taking part in the scheme.
- A list of [participating pharmacies](#) is available on the [PenCycle website](#). Alternatively, advise patients about the postal route for returns and signpost them to the [patient facing PenCycle website](#).



More information

- [Read the PenCycle information – July 2022](#)
- [Watch the PenCycle pen user video 2022 version](#)
- To view the introductory video and further information about the scheme please visit: [How can I PenCycle? | PenCycle \(pen-cycle.co.uk\)](#)

Sign Up

PenCycle registrations are now open on the [Alliance Healthcare website](#). Once registered, pharmacies will receive bins and patient boxes, leaflets and posters etc.