

Pharmacy Virtual Trail: KS4 History of Medicine

Welcome to the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell. The museum tells the history of the city of Norwich. This trail uses Google Arts and Culture to virtually access a recreated pharmacy in the museum but feel free to also use the links to explore the rest of the museum.

Please click on the underlined blue words to take you to relevant exhibit. You may need to move around and zoom in to find some of the information. Answers to questions can be found at the end of this document.

Although this recreated pharmacy is modelled on how a pharmacy would have looked like in the 1920s, it can also demonstrate the impact of the National Health Service in 1948. Visiting a doctor before 1948 was expensive so people went to a chemist for a diagnosis or treatment. People would wait by the counter while their medicine was made up for them in the dispensary or they would call back later. [View this new film celebrating the wonderful recreated pharmacy.](#)

[Explore the recreated pharmacy.](#) Before the NHS, pharmacists made medicines using their own recipes. These were secret and sometimes of questionable value!

Can you find:

- Ingredients that the pharmacist would have used to make up medicines?
- Equipment to help the chemist make pills?
- The dispensing department where people would pick up their medicine?

Pharmacists provided a wider range of services pre-1948. Can you also find:

- Equipment to test eyesight?
- A place to weigh babies?
- Hot water bottles and bed pans?
- Inhalers?

Once the NHS was set up, healthcare was made free to everyone and the role of the pharmacist changed forever. More time was spent dispensing medicine prescribed by family doctors and less time was spent making their own remedies.

Answers to questions:

[Ingredients for medicines](#)

[Pill making equipment](#)

[Dispensing department](#)

[Eye test equipment](#)

[Weighing babies](#)

[Hot water bottles and bed pans](#)

[Inhalers](#)

Norfolk Museums Service is a partnership between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's District Councils, funded through council tax, earned income and grants.

