



NWSSP Medicines Unit

The NWSSP Medicines Unit is an MHRA Licenced “Specials” Medicines Manufacturing Unit based in IP5, which began operating in January 2021, primarily as a manufacturing unit for ready-to-administer critical care infusions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The products were designed to improve patient safety due to the strict environment in which they were manufactured, as well as release nursing time back to patients. At as June 2023, the Unit had manufactured and supplied 32,000 ready to administer critical care infusions to hospitals, which released 320 days of nursing time back into critical care services. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Unit utilised its Manufacturing and Wholesale Dealing Licences to pack and supply over 800,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to primary care sites.

The Medicines Unit now utilises its Wholesale Dealing and Manufacturing Licences to identify Once-for-Wales opportunities for contracting, purchasing and manufacturing of medicines. The approach aims to improve service delivery and financial performance for our partners within NHS Wales.

The service to date has enabled over £950,000 of savings from centralised procurement and distribution of medicines under its Wholesale Dealer Licence whilst in 2023/23, the manufacture of monoclonal antibody infusions for cancers and immunological diseases will provide cost-saving opportunities of approximately £500,000 across Wales when compared to purchases from commercial suppliers.