



Wessex AHSN: Joint working agreements with pharmaceutical companies

Project title

PINCER Programme: Primis facilitator post in Wessex

Organisations involved

Boehringer Ingelheim/Wessex Academic Health Science Network

Summary

PINCER is the Pharmacist-led Information technology iNtervention for the reduction of Clinically important ERrors in medicines management.

This agreement funds the post of a facilitator to assist with the roll-out to GP practices and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the Wessex region, for two days per week for one year.

Background

Prescribing errors in general practice are an expensive, preventable cause of safety incidents, illness, hospitalisations and even deaths. Serious errors affect one in 550 prescription items, while hazardous prescribing in general practice contributes to around 1 in 25 hospital admissions. Outcomes of a trial published in the Lancet showed a reduction in error rates of up to 50% following adoption of PINCER.

Project approach

Wessex AHSN is working with all CCGs across Wessex to enable access to the clinical audit tool along with the quality improvement methodologies that underpin the audit process. Excellent progress has already been made with more than two thirds of practices having already completed the audit cycle.

PINCER is one of the Medicines Optimisation projects selected for national adoption and spread across the AHSN Network in 2018-2020.

Project objectives

Our aim is to help patients get the maximum benefit from their medicines whilst reducing the risk associated with particular types of medicines.

Benefits

The PRIMIS system extracts knowledge and value from primary care data.

PINCER is a methodology for reducing medication errors, and thereby improving medication safety. Using clinical audit tools alongside quality improvement methodology to review groups of patients taking high risk medicines/combinations of medicines, PINCER ensures that any risks are mitigated.



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This project provides support for GPs to access, understand and use the data held on their secure primary care IT systems to help their patients to achieve fewer health crises and/or hospital admissions and better health outcomes.

Funding

Financial support of £30,000 for the project was provided by Boehringer Ingelheim Limited as a Medical and Educational Goods and Service grant.