The NHS spends over £17 billion per year on medicines. However, patients do not always get the full benefit from their medicines.

Our medicines optimisation work is supporting professionals and patients to get the most from medicines and ensure medication safety.

The NHS BSA Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators, developed by a team led by Wessex AHSN, are used in all 195 CCGs across England to help CCGs and GP practices understand the variation in prescribing of multiple medicines and identify patients who may be exposed to risks associated with taking large numbers of medicines or certain combinations of medicines.

A recent national survey demonstrated that 93% of responders found the Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators useful or very useful.

There were 3,662 hits of the dashboard in a 10 day period in Jan 2019.

NE Hampshire and Farnham CCG has been identified nationally as using the NHS BSA Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators, as intended with 100% of their practices utilising the element of the tool that finds patients at potential risk.

They have demonstrated a reduction across all prescribing indicators at a rate more than double the England national level.

Enhanced PINCER training was attended by 64 primary care staff from 7 CCGs in Wessex. Training covered Root Cause Analysis and Quality Improvement methodology to improve medication safety in line with PINCER principles.

203 GP practices in 8 CCGs in Wessex are using the PINCER intervention to reduce the risk of harm from medicines.

The Meet Mo videos collectively have been seen by over 200k people.

5,880 patients in Wessex have been referred to their community pharmacy for advice and support after a stay in hospital via the TCAM service medicines.

Why are we doing it?
To help patients get the maximum benefit from their medicines and reduce waste through a person-centred approach.

What is the innovation?
Helping people get the best possible outcomes from their medicines.
Medicines Optimisation (MO) programme

What was delivered 2018-19?

Transfer of Care Around Medicines (TCAM)
- TCAM is now operational in four Trusts in Wessex and plans in place for an additional 4 Trusts to go live in 19/20
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) launched their service in May 2019

PINCER
- Wessex is the leading AHSN currently for PINCER medication safety implementation
- PINCER is being used in 203 practices in 8 CCGs in Wessex. The remaining CCG will start PINCER training in May 2019
- PINCER Enhanced training delivered in 3 sites in Wessex for 64 primary care staff from 7 CCGs

Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)
- A patient facing ‘Meet Mo’ Electronic Repeat Dispensing Video was developed and released, which has received over 75k views
- Two films showing GPs and Pharmacists how eRD works in practice were developed and published in March 2019. These have received 3k views
- eRD Handbook published and shared across Wessex
- Both these resources are referenced by the NHS Business Services Authority eRD pages in addition to a joint publication outlining the benefits of eRD for general practice
- eRD in Wessex increased to 7% of all items
- Close to 4 million prescription items delivered as eRD in Wessex over the last 12 months

This work is particularly timely as eRD is now part of the new GP Framework ‘Digital First’

Polypharmacy
- Wessex AHSN was formally recognised by NHS England as the custodian of the NHS BSA Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators
- Work has started on the next phase of this tool which helps General Practices to identify patients at risk from problematic polypharmacy
- We developed and delivered a novel concept of polypharmacy Action Learning Sets. 2 cohorts comprising 12 GPs and pharmacists ran over 2 months and the evaluation conducted by CIS shows the delegates found it valuable. Health Education England (HEE) are now working with the AHSN to develop plans to replicate this work across the south of England

Events and awards 2018-19:
- Polypharmacy Action learning sets were delivered to over 40 GPs in Wessex (3 sessions x 2 cohorts). The evaluation of these Action Learning Sets (ALSs) meant that we will run further sessions in Dorset and The Isle of Wight (IoW) and HEE has plans to collaborate with us to roll them out across the South
- Supported Dorset CCG launch of eRD implementation
- Jointly organised six Hampshire and IOW eRD Evenings with CSPC, attended by 122 pharmacy contractors and 83 GP practice members
- PINCER Enhanced Training events for 64 primary care staff
- In collaboration with Novartis and The Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management we delivered leadership development for all of the senior Pharmacists in Hampshire and IoW. This work enabled the delivery of and STP medicines strategy
Plans for 2019-20:

- We will be working to embed PINCER and support the continued roll-out of TCAM and eRD
- We will be delivering more polypharmacy ALSs and supporting the spread beyond Wessex
- We will be supporting NHS colleagues in the roll-out of Me and My Medicines across at least two Wessex CCGs
- The focus will be to learn from current practice and identify areas for improvement embedding good practice and celebrating successes at every step of the way
- We will create opportunities to help organisations to engage with each other, build their network, share their experience, improve their QI knowledge and support one another

“Insulin self administration

“Our team have now had time to look at the documents on your website. They are fantastic and we would love to have the word versions of all the documents and appendices if possible.”

Christine Skivington
Diabetes Specialist Nurse
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow

“I was at the ‘Making Hospitals Safe for people with Diabetes’ conference and found your presentation of how you implemented insulin self admin very illuminating. I think myself and many others in the room really related to the challenges you had to overcome in order to implement it successfully.”

Ben Nash
Medical Specialities Directorate and NMP
Lead Pharmacist
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Wessex Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) is one of 15 AHSNs set up by NHS England in 2013 and relicensed from April 2018 to operate as the key innovation arm of the NHS.

At Wessex AHSN we improve people’s health, achieve excellence in healthcare and boost transformation and growth in our region’s life sciences and healthcare sector.

We connect academics, NHS, local authorities, industry and citizens to bring fresh energy to old problems, inspired thinking to new ones and to spread innovation and best practice across health and social care.

10% of the workforce in Wessex is employed in the health economy

Wessex boasts over 250 life science companies in medtech, medbiotech, industrial biotech and pharma

The region’s life sciences industry employs 9,000 and has a turnover of £2.5 billion

The region’s population of 3 million is served by 10 CCGs, 9 local authorities, 11 NHS Trusts and 5 universities

Want to find out more?

TheAHSNNetwork

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Watch our short video about what we do at wessexahsn.org.uk/aboutwessexahsn

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