

# Medicines Optimisation Legacy Programme: Supporting Adoption of Pincer



## What we do

Use proven Clinical Audit tools to support pharmacists in helping people to get the most from their medicines



## Why are we doing it?

To help patients get the maximum benefit from their medicines and reduce the risk of harm from medication errors

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

Medication errors in general practice are an important and expensive preventable cause of patient safety incidents associated with morbidity, hospitalisations and deaths. A large-scale study in English general practices identified errors in 5% of prescription items, with one in 550 items containing a potentially life-threatening error. Given the prevalence of medication errors, and the severity of harm associated with these, it is important to implement interventions known to correct these errors.

PINCER is a pharmacist-led, IT-based intervention to reduce clinically important medication errors in primary care. PINCER involves searching GP clinical systems using computerised prescribing safety indicators to identify patients at risk from their prescriptions, and then acting to correct the problems with pharmacist support.



A total of **234** practices across Wessex used the PINCER tool with more than **100** practices repeating their audit in 2021-2022



Over **3,500** fewer patients at risk from clinically significant medication errors



**80** clinical staff trained during 2021/22, bringing the total to over 350



Around **95%** of clinicians trained in 2021-2022 were Primary Care Network pharmacists or pharmacy technicians



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## What we delivered in 2021-22:

- The AHSN National Programme for PINCER came to an end in March 2021. Locally, during 2021-22, we continued our work to embed the pharmacist-led PINCER programme, and support practices in its continued use through training sessions and information sharing
- We have trained over 80 clinicians in the PINCER intervention resulting in over **3,500 fewer patients** at risk from clinically significant medication errors
- Approximately **95% of clinicians trained** in 2021-2022 are Primary Care Network pharmacists or pharmacy technicians.



## Plans for 2022-23:

- From April 2022 we will continue to provide training in PINCER, as required and on request.

“This has given us a way to target really high-risk patients with a ready to use package. This is a pharmacist-led intervention and there’s very few of those around with this kind of evidence base.”

**Clare Howard**

Clinical lead for Wessex AHSN’s PINCER programme

## Want to find out more?

 [@WessexAHSN](https://twitter.com/WessexAHSN)

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