

Medicines Optimisation Team Induction Pack for PCN/Practice Based Pharmacists

1.0 Welcome

Welcome to primary care and to working in GP practice. The following induction pack is intended to inform you of the role and functions of the Oxfordshire CCG (OCCG) Medicines Optimisation team and help you to find resources which might be useful in the first few days of your new role. We also have a dedicated page on the CCG website for practice based pharmacists which can be found at:
<https://clincox.info/clinical-support/Medicines/medicines-management/pharmacists-in-gp-practices.htm>

2.0 Meet the team

Head of Medicines Optimisation – **Sara Wilds**

The Head of Medicines Optimisation (MO) is responsible for developing, managing and driving the strategic direction of medicine optimisation across the CCG in order to improve the management of medicines and the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of medicines optimisation, prescribing and pharmaceutical care. Providing expert advice to the CCG on all pharmaceutical matters including input to strategic service development and the impact of commissioning decisions

Lead Pharmacists for Medicines Optimisation – **Claire Critchley, Ailsa Hunter, Louisa Griffiths** (currently on mat leave),

The Leads are responsible for delivering, managing and developing prescribing and therapeutics in OCCG and lead on areas such as the Prescribing Incentive Scheme (PIS), budget setting and governance. They also lead the Medicines Optimisation team to ensure that practices maximise the clinical and cost effectiveness of medication across Oxfordshire. They act as deputy for the Head of Medicines Optimisation.

Medicines Optimisation Pharmacists – **Odelia Eke, Ross Burton, Liz Edwards, Jane Bennett** (currently on secondment to OH),

The Medicines Optimisation Pharmacists (MOPs) provide day to day management and delivery of medicines optimisation in the context of the wider medicines agenda ensuring best value, reduced harm and improved outcomes from the significant investment in medicines. Each MOP is responsible for leading development and delivery of medicines redesign and other medicines optimisation strategies, plans and programmes identified through the QIPP planning processes on behalf of OCCG. They take responsibility for defined therapeutic areas (e.g. antimicrobials, diabetes, dressings etc) for the medicines components

Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist, High Cost Drugs (HCDs) – Louise Davies

This is a dynamic role that arches between the Medicine Optimisation areas of OCCG and OUH. This role covers medicine optimisation, audit, financial and clinical aspects relating to high cost drugs and acts as an interface between OCCG and secondary care

Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist, Primary Care Network Clinical Lead – Jen Weston

The Primary Care Network Clinical Lead Pharmacist works with the Medicines Optimisation Team part time. Their role is to provide leadership and support in the development of Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacy services in line with the national and local initiatives. They lead on the development of clinical pharmacists within PCNs and their integration in the wider pharmacy and healthcare network in Oxfordshire. They convene the various PCN Pharmacist network groups, provide group and individual peer support and mentorship as required.

Prescribing Support Dietitian – Suzanne Bradshaw

The Prescribing Support Dietitian supports the delivery of all aspects of the QIPP agenda at practice level. They take the lead on nutritional issues, support primary care practices to ensure that prescribing of oral nutritional supplements (ONS) is both clinically and cost effective, and to provide specialist nutritional and dietary advice in relation to the care of an individual / group of patients. The dietitian undertakes audits at practice level of the prescribing of ONS and identifies patients for whom the nutritional supplements are inappropriate and produces guidelines for the prescribing of oral nutrition products.

Prescribing Advisers – Jill Horn, Alison Jones, Nisha Lall

Prescribing Advisers (PAs) support the delivery of all aspects of the QIPP agenda at practice level. They undertake audits at practice level on prescribing, medicines management issues, admissions, referral or other practice improvement areas. The Prescribing Advisers also support the CCG in undertaking work on reducing variation and delivering practice improvements identified through the Prescribing Incentive Scheme. Each PCN/Practice is assigned a link Prescribing Adviser; if you would like to make contact with your PA then email occg.medicines@nhs.net.

3.0 The role of the team

The MO team provides prescribing support to primary care across Oxfordshire including:

- Promoting safe, evidence based and cost-effective use of medicines;
- Providing up to date information and guidance about medicines and treatments;
- Supporting prescribers and patients to make the best use of medicines;
- Reducing the risks of adverse effects and harm caused by medicines;

- Developing local guidelines, policies and care pathways to optimise the use of medicines and management of conditions;
- Working collaboratively with GP practices, local hospital trusts and other healthcare providers to support medicines optimisation.

4.0 Work and Projects

Practice Work

The MO team provides prescribing support to the 67 Practices (20 PCNs) in Oxfordshire and meet annually with GPs, Practice Managers, nurses and Clinical Pharmacists to discuss:

- Prescribing issues – e.g. inappropriate requests from secondary care;
- Practice budgets and data report;
- Priorities for the year e.g. Prescribing Incentive Scheme (PIS);
- Educational support;
- Audits.

Prescribing Incentive Scheme (PIS)

Provides an opportunity for savings & quality improvements (Link [here](#))

For 21/22 financial year, we are asking Practices to look into the following:

- Element 1 – Engagement with OCCG medicines optimisation initiatives to maximise safe and cost-effective prescribing
- Element 2 – Optimisation of heart failure medications
- Element 3 – Antibiotic prescribing

Practice Audits

- Ensuring appropriate prescribing in line with local and national guidelines eg. antibiotics;
- Promoting self-care in line with national campaign through Over The Counter medicines e.g. hay fever relief;
- Making product switches to cost-effective alternatives e.g. Inhalers.

Hartmann Advanced Logistics Ordering (HALO) for dressings

The majority of formulary dressings are supplied through HALO (link to formulary can be found [here](#)). This reduces waste and provides dressings more efficiently than via FP10 prescriptions. HALO accounts are provided for practice nurses (PNs), District Nurses (DNs) and nursing home sites. Next day to 48 hour delivery is standard so sites are encouraged to keep no more than 2 weeks' worth of stock.

Prescribing Dashboard

- Updated monthly (link to the Prescribing Dashboard can be found [here](#));
- Data provided by the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA);
- Data lag of approx. 2 months;
- Updates practices on their prescribing including:
 - Prescribing spend vs budget
 - Prescribing Incentive Scheme (PIS) achievement
 - Antimicrobial prescribing position
 - Itemised list of red, black and special drugs and OTC

- Gives information at practice, PCN and CCG level.

Prescribing Queries

- Team email address: occg.medicines@nhs.net
- For any medicines or prescribing related queries
- Dedicated support on a daily basis, which allows queries to be answered in a timely and efficient manner
- For queries on **oral nutrition**, our dietitian can be contacted via occg.dietitian@nhs.net
- For **general medicines information** queries not specific to OCCG, please contact the Regional Medicines Information Centre at Southampton General Hospital via medicinesadvice@uhs.nhs.uk

5.0 Communication

- [Prescribing Points](#) – a regular newsletter sent to healthcare professionals across Oxfordshire which might include cost effective alternatives, out of stock items, discontinued items, drug safety updates and formulary changes. To be added to the circulation list, please email Sue Keating at skeating@nhs.net
- [GP Bulletin](#) – A weekly newsletter sent out by OCCG covering a variety of topics including more urgent prescribing issues e.g. Different batches of Clenil 100mcg inhalers.
- Annual practice prescribing meetings and Prescribing Data Report
- Pharmacist Network Event is a network between the CCG pharmacists, practice-based pharmacists and colleagues from secondary care to discuss topical issues as well share learning. This occurs every quarter, please email Claire Critchley at claire.critchley1@nhs.net if you would like to attend.

6.0 Website and Formulary

- Oxfordshire CCG Website: <http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/professional-resources/professional-resources.htm>
- Oxfordshire Clinical Support Website (ClinOX): <http://clinox.info/clinical-support/Medicines/medicines-management/prescribing.htm>

The ClinOX website includes information regarding current issues such as COVID-19 pandemic, Clinical guidelines, Pharmacy Services etc. All clinical information that you may need can be found on the website.

- Oxfordshire CCG Formulary: <http://www.oxfordshireformulary.nhs.uk/>

The formulary is a list of drugs approved as the most cost effective and efficient that we use to optimise our prescribing. There are different 'lines' that can be used if one

isn't appropriate for the patient. The Oxfordshire Formulary has a traffic light system which provides information on prescribing restrictions on certain drugs across the whole healthcare system, and all providers are contractually obliged to adhere to them.

RED

Red: Medicines which should only be prescribed in secondary care by a specialist.

AMB C

Amber Continuation: Medicines which should be initiated or recommended by a specialist for continuation in primary care. The specialist must notify the GP that the prescribing responsibility has been transferred.

AMB SCP

Amber Shared Care Protocol: Medicines which are appropriate to be initiated and stabilised by a specialist, once stabilised the medicine may be appropriate for responsibility to be transferred from secondary to primary care with the agreement of a GP and a formal 'shared care' agreement. The shared care protocol must be approved by the Area Prescribing Committee Oxfordshire (APCO).

GREEN

Green: Medicines which are suitable for initiation and ongoing prescribing within primary care.

BROWN

Brown: Medicines which should only be prescribed in restricted circumstances.

BLACK

Black: Medicines which are not recommended for use because of lack of evidence of clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness or safety.

7.0 Area Prescribing Committee Oxfordshire (APCO)

[APCO](#) considers new drugs, prescribing guidelines and shared care protocols and provides recommendations on prescribing and medicines optimisation across the Oxfordshire Health Economy. The group considers any new NICE guidance which includes drugs. APCO classifies drugs according to the local 'Traffic Light' system. The Group consists of GPs, OCCG Medicines Optimisation Team representation, and representation from OUHFT and OHFT, Local medical committee and Local Pharmaceutical Committee.

8.0 Shared Care Protocols (SCPs)

These are a set of guidelines for the seamless transfer of care of patients between Secondary Care and General Practice. They are used for medicines that are for serious, complex conditions which are started in Secondary Care, and then the GP will continue to prescribe. These medications usually require specific monitoring. To view Oxfordshire SCP click [here](#).

9.0 Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidance and Stewardship

Oxfordshire CCG uses the South Central Antimicrobial Network (SCAN) Guidelines for Antibiotic Prescribing in the Community. These have been used across many CCGs in the South Region, including Oxfordshire, East Berkshire and Berkshire West for a number of years. These guidelines provide advice on the effective and safe treatment of infections commonly presenting in primary care and are based on NICE and Public Health England advice with input from local experts.

The Guidelines can be accessed as an app on a phone or tablet device (search MicroGuide in the app store or google play) or via a web viewer on a desktop computer or laptop <https://viewer.microguide.global/SCAN/SCAN>.

To ensure that you have the most up to date version, please use the online link and do not save the pdf version on your computer, or print the guidelines. Please be reassured that resources will be kept up to date while both are live online.

10.0 Community Pharmacy Services

OCCG commissions three [community pharmacy services](#):

- Guaranteed provision of Palliative Care Drugs Scheme – we have arranged with some Pharmacy Contractors to guarantee stocking an agreed selection of routine palliative care drugs, as the Community Palliative Care teams would somewhat struggle to obtain the necessary medications.
- Urinary Tract Infection – this service allows community pharmacists to treat women suffering from an uncomplicated UTI with Nitrofurantoin via a Patient Group Direction. The service is on offer to all community pharmacies in Oxfordshire.
- Minor Ailment Scheme – this service is for those patients who are **exempt from prescription charges** and are registered at one of the named GP practices in Oxford City or Banbury. The patients will be able to receive free supplies of specified OTC medicines for minor ailments after having a consultation with a Pharmacy team member. The aims of the service are;
 - To improve access and choice for people with minor ailments who are seeking advice and treatment
 - To reduce health inequalities for low income families by creating equal access to medicines for self-care of minor ailments.
 - To improve GP capacity by reducing the workload of those providers related to minor ailments.

11.0 DOAC Pharmacy Service (not part of the CCG team)

A team of Pharmacists employed by the Anticoagulation Optimisation Support Service offer education and support for GPs, and Primary Care Clinicians including Nurses and Pharmacists, they can be contacted via email on doacsupport.ox@nhs.net.

12.0 Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes (MOCH)

The Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes (MOCH) service is part of an NHS England funded [pilot](#), which is aligned to the [Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes](#) and supports practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to develop and provide clinical pharmacy to care homes.

The team is commissioned by OCCG and employed within the pharmacy directorate of Oxford Health NHS FT. The MOCH team works closely with GPs, care home staff, the Care Home Support Service, practice and PCN pharmacists, the OCCG Medicines Optimisation team, and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to promote patient-centered, evidence prescribing and improve outcomes for individual residents.

Please see the link below for further information about the MOCH team and for information such as resources to support PCN pharmacists and good practice guidelines for care homes:

<https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/professional-resources/medicines-care-homes.htm>

The MOCH team can be contacted via email on medicines.care-homes@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

13.0 Useful Resources

- PrescQIPP - <https://www.prescgipp.info/>
- SPS - <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/>
- Clinical Commissioning Policies - <https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/professional-resources/policies.htm>