Medicines Newsletter

Health Innovation East Midlands

October 2026

Welcome to our Medicines Newsletter

We are one of a network of 15 organisations across England supporting adoption and spread of proven, nationally recognised medicines optimisation programmes. We also work on local projects to facilitate collaboration, share learning and improve quality.

Contact: Gill Gookey, Head of Medicines Safety Programme Delivery:
07972 354778 | gill.gookey@nottingham.ac.uk

Preventing Problematic Polypharmacy: Getting the balance right in frail and older people

The *Preventing Problematic Polypharmacy: Getting the balance right in frail and older people programme* supports local systems and primary care to identify patients at risk of harm from medicines, and support better conversations and shared decision making.

The programme offers a range of support including Action Learning Sets, Masterclasses, Data webinars, the Polypharmacy Shared Learning Network, clinical toolkits and patient-facing resources such as *Me and My Medicines*. See below for event registration details:

When	Event title
Tuesday 15th December, 12:00pm-2:00pm	East Midlands Community of Practice: Getting the balance right: Respiratory medicines in older people and those with frailty
Tuesday 16th March 2027, 12:00pm-2:00pm	East Midlands Community of Practice: Getting the balance right: Diabetes medicines in older people and those with frailty
Thursday 19th November 2026, 12:00 - 1:15pm	National Webinar: NHSBSA Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators: Getting the Balance Right
Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets	Register interest here

We have also supported the first cross-Derbyshire Lincolnshire Nottinghamshire cluster problematic polypharmacy group, which was really energising and brought like-minded people together from across the cluster.

If you are leading or considering work to reduce problematic polypharmacy, improve medication review processes or support shared decision-making, we would be pleased to hear from you. You can find out more about the programme; follow us on LinkedIn or get in touch.

Medicines safety improvement programme (MedSIP)

We continue to work with Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) ICS and with Northamptonshire ICS to take a 'whole system approach to change' to help people with learning disability, at risk of behaviour that challenges, to avoid harm from psychotropic medicines. If you work in these ICS areas and would like to be involved, please email us. We are particularly keen to hear from any clinicians that currently do, or wish to, undertake structured medication reviews with this population, as we have some tools and support that may help. For more information visit our website or NHS Futures .

Treating tobacco dependency

The Health Innovation Network Treating Tobacco Dependency programme is working with ICBs, Trusts and Local Authorities to deliver a reliable patient pathway from in-patient services to community-based support, including enhancing the functionality of existing digital platforms and technologies. Join our webinar to find out more (Mon 2 Nov, 1:30pm – 3pm) and please get in touch if this is an area of interest.

Respiratory Transformation Partnership (RTP)

The RTP is a national programme to support whole-pathway transformation for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In the East Midlands we are supporting:

- **Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** (Nottinghamshire) who secured RTP funding to extend work focused on asthma and COPD in ex-mining communities.

- **Leicester/shire, Northamptonshire and Rutland (LNR)** are developing several projects with RTP industry partners, including:

  - **BRIDGE-ASTHMA**: development and local implementation of a collaborative asthma management framework across primary and secondary care.

  - **COPD Neighbourhood Development:** implementation of an integrated neighbourhood-based model for COPD care, supporting earlier diagnosis, prevention and workforce.

  - **COPD Biologics Readiness:** preparing services for the introduction of COPD biologic therapies through pathway development, workforce training and patient identification.

Local planning is underway and we will share learning as the projects progress. If you are working on initiatives relating to asthma or COPD diagnosis, treatment optimisation, biologic therapies, workforce development or pathway transformation, please get in touch. We will share future RTP funding opportunities through this newsletter and on our RTP webpage.

Awards congratulations

Congratulations to everyone involved in the following award-winning projects.

- National MedSIP work to improve the use of data, which has been highly commended at the 2026 **PrescQIPP** Awards.
- Nottingham West Primary Care Network's work on smarter DOAC management and safer prescribing, which won the PrescQIPP Gold Award.
- National partnership recognised for improving chronic pain care and reducing the risks linked to opioid medicines