

Medicines Newsletter

April 2025

Welcome to the Health Innovation East Midlands' Medicines Newsletter

We are one of a network of 15 organisations working across the country to support adoption and spread of proven, nationally recognised medicines optimisation programmes. We also work on locally determined projects to facilitate collaboration, share learning and improve quality.

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New medicines safety improvement programme

From April 2025, working jointly with Health Innovation West Midlands, we will be leading a new MedSIP project on [Reducing harm from psychotropic medicines used for behaviour that challenges, in people with a learning disability](#).

The programme has been developed over the last year and has considered the findings from the interviews carried out by the HINs nationally to identify local best practice that could be rolled out more widely.

In the East Midlands we are looking for an ICB to work with us to take a system wide approach to make improvements in this area. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact lisa.towle1@nottingham.ac.uk

On 10th May Gill will be presenting with Tony Jamieson, Patient Safety Specialist and Clinical Improvement Lead, NHSE at the [Clinical Pharmacy Congress](#) in London on the topic of psychotropics.

Improving the management of chronic non-cancer pain and reducing the harm from opioids

Alongside the new programme mentioned above, the [resources](#) developed over the last two years around opioids remain relevant and available for you to use, including a practice-level opioid [quality improvement toolkit](#).

You can also read our [review of the Pain Management Groups](#) set up in Derbyshire and [download tools to help you measure the group's impact](#).

Louise Wilson's PhD paper on [patient difficulties with prescribed opioids](#), which was conducted with patients at GP practices in the East Midlands, is now also published if you'd like to have a read!

Polypharmacy support continues

Polypharmacy will continue as a local programme into 2025-26, so we are still on hand to support you in making use of the resources developed in this area including:

- [Implementing learning from the LLR polypharmacy pilot to improve outcomes and reduce hospital admissions](#)
- [Me and my medicines written and audio translations to help patients to access and make the most of their structured medication reviews.](#)

If you are working on any innovations relating to polypharmacy, please do [get in touch](#). We'd love to hear about them.

New guide launched to tackle overprescribing and problematic polypharmacy

Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs) are the best-tested, NICE-approved intervention to reduce problematic polypharmacy, especially in older people. However, uptake is very variable across the country.

Based on three years of learning from the Health Innovation Network Polypharmacy Programme and shaped by expert clinicians and patients, a [new manual](#) has been launched to help ICBs, PCNs and GP practices think about how to organise systems and primary care teams to reduce overprescribing and problematic polypharmacy and, in particular, make best use of SMRs and deploy this important intervention.

East Midlands polypharmacy Community of Practice (CoP)

The next CoP will take place on Tuesday 3rd June 2025, 12noon – 2pm and will feature expert colleagues discussing Polypharmacy in Palliative Care. [Register](#)

The CoP is an open forum to meet with colleagues from all sectors across the East Midlands ICSs and address some of the common challenges relating to problematic polypharmacy.

The March CoP discussed medicines in maternity and breast feeding. Dr Anette Fryer, lead obstetric physician at the East Midlands Maternal Medicine Network, and Dr Andy Simm, Consultant Obstetrician at NUH, [discussed medicines in maternity](#).

Later, Laura Kearney, Clinical Lead Pharmacist at the UK Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service, and Dr Jen Mosslangfield, GP with Special Interest and Prescribing Lead for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, [discussed medicines in breastfeeding](#).

Watch recordings from all the CoPs [here](#) or [find out more](#).

Funding available for CVD innovation

It's not too late to take a look at the [BHF Healthcare Innovation Fund](#) – which seeks to test and evaluate innovative approaches to the delivery of improved services for patients with cardiovascular disease. **Closing date for the current round is Monday 28th April 2025 at midday.** Applications must be supported by a regional innovation board – so [get in touch](#) if you are interested in applying.