

Medicines Newsletter

October 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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Medicines safety improvement programme

Since April 2025, working jointly with Health Innovation West Midlands, we've led a new national MedSIP project on [Helping people with learning disability, who have behaviour that challenges, to avoid harm from psychotropic medicines](#).

In the East Midlands we are working with Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICS and with Northamptonshire ICS to take a 'whole systems approach to change' to map and begin the action planning process to allow a targeted approach to improvement work in the region. If you would like to be involved please contact Lisa.towle1@nottingham.ac.uk

Three national action learning sets have taken place for ICSs taking part in the programme and resources will be shared more widely as the programme develops on [NHS Futures](#).

Jointly with Health Innovation West Midlands, we are delivering an Innovation Exchange event on Thursday 8th January (10:30am – 12pm). This online event will showcase innovations with the potential to help people with learning disability who have behaviour that challenges to avoid harm from psychotropic medicines. [Register here](#).

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

We're excited to share that our work with Joined Up Care Derbyshire and Live Well With Pain was Highly Commended in the HSJ Patient Safety Awards under the Best Use of Integrated Care and Partnership Working in Patient Safety category. [Resources](#) developed over the last three years around opioids prescribing are available for you to use.

Polypharmacy programme

Marking the end of the Health Innovation Network Polypharmacy programme, a series of evaluation reports has been published, including an [Impact Report](#), a [Health Economics Analysis](#), and a [Learning Review](#). These are accompanied by a [news story](#) and a [reflective blog](#) from the programme leads.

You can [sign up to the Health Innovation Network Polypharmacy Shared Learning Network](#) to stay up to date with new research, education and learning opportunities, new resources and to hear about forthcoming events.

Both the Community of Practice (CoP) and Action Learning Set (ALS) training will continue in the East Midlands, with the Pharmacy School at the University of Nottingham leading on the CoP and the five regional Training Hubs adopting the ALS. [ALS open for bookings](#)

Improving access to Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs)

The Health Innovation Network recently published [resources for care homes](#), designed to support residents, families, and care home staff in preparing for and participating in SMRs.

East Midlands polypharmacy Community of Practice (CoP)

The next CoP will take place on Tuesday 2nd December 2025, 12noon – 2pm and will feature expert colleagues discussing Polypharmacy in Renal care. [Register here](#). The September CoP discussed Polypharmacy in Heart Failure. Watch recordings [here](#) or [find out more](#).

BHF fund – open for applications

The [BHF Healthcare Implementation Fund](#) (formerly the Healthcare Innovation Fund) is open for applications. Designed to 'Support measurable improvement in the delivery of services for people with cardiovascular disease', the deadline is **midday Mon 17th Nov 2025**. A webinar to support applicants is on **Weds 29th Oct, 4-5:30pm**. [Email for details](#).

Respiratory Transformation Partnership

We recently helped coordinate bids to the Respiratory Transformation Partnership, which is jointly funded by NHS England and the Office for Life Sciences. Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB, in collaboration with Sherwood Forest Hospital were awarded funding to implement an Integrated Neighbourhood Respiratory Health Service.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the bids. To find out more email [Nikki Biddlestone](#)

Repeat prescribing toolkit

Health Innovation Kent Surrey and Sussex is supporting its stakeholders to implement the newly released Repeat Prescribing Toolkit, jointly developed by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). You can view a recent webinar and [download resources from their website](#).

Innovation showcase

HIEM hosted an innovation showcase bringing together 24 innovators and more than 100 colleagues across the health and care systems. [Read more](#) or [watch the video](#).