



ROYAL
PHARMACEUTICAL
SOCIETY
England

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NHS RightCare: Reducing unwarranted variation

NOVEMBER 2017

WHAT IS NHS RIGHTCARE?

NHS RightCare is a national NHS England programme which supports local health economies to:

- Make the best use of their resources by tackling over use and under use of resources.
- Understand their performance by identifying variation between demographically similar populations so they can adopt and implement optimal care pathways more efficiently and effectively.
- Talk together about the same things, about population healthcare rather than organisations, and encouraging joint decision-making.
- Focus on areas of greatest opportunity by identifying priority programmes which offer the best opportunities to improve healthcare for the local population.
- Use tried and tested evidence based processes to make sustainable improvement to reduce unwarranted variation.

NHS RightCare has an important role in delivering Medicines Optimisation across care pathways based on the RPS Medicines Optimisation Principles with patients at the centre, delivering optimal outcomes and value.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME AS A PHARMACIST?

Find out what the priorities are in terms of NHS RightCare in your area.

Access the NHS RightCare data for your area and see if there are opportunities where you can make a difference

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare/products/ccg-data-packs/where-to-look-packs>

Engage across sectors of the profession to reduce variation in patient care and outcomes linking specialists, primary/community care, mental health, community pharmacy. Build relationships and communications to deliver better value.

Contribute to emerging evidence that better utilisation and integration of pharmacists delivers positive quality benefits from medicines optimisation.

Be aware of the Medicines Value Programme <https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines/> and how NHS RightCare links to and delivers this.

WHAT IS THE ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY DOING?

- We are exploring the way in which community pharmacists already do and can further contribute to the delivery of optimal care pathways to support their local health economies to improve patient care.
- We are working with the NHS RightCare Team to ensure that the elements and principles of medicines optimisation are embedded into their work.
- We are campaigning for all pharmacists to have read/write access to patient records to enable them to add maximum clinical value in a more integrated way.
- We are working with patient groups to highlight the role of pharmacists and their important role in supporting patients to manage medicines better and more safely.
- We will host blogs from NHS RightCare to keep members up to speed on important developments.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Unwarranted variation is variation that cannot be explained by patient preference, illness or evidence based medicine. Health informatics and prescribing data are very interesting because they enable us to identify unwarranted variation in medicines optimisation. When we consider prescribing and pharmacy data, most pharmacists will be aware that there is a plethora of data on medicines available. It may also be fair to say that we have more data on the medicines that are used in health economies within the UK than most other areas of healthcare. Depending on the source of that data i.e. primary or secondary care, the data usually provides us with a comprehensive set of measures about the medicines that are used. There are various sources for this data such as IMS, Pharmex, ePACT etc. However, although pharmacists have a wealth of data on medicines that are used, what is often missing is the connection to clinical pathways and the link up to clinical outcomes.

The NHS RightCare approach enables us to look at medicines as part of whole pathways rather than in isolation and to consider clinical outcomes where relevant. This is an interesting concept, especially as it provides a step towards considering the value of medicines when treating specific conditions.

NHS RightCare Intelligence data supports us to improve clinical outcomes, while embracing innovation and trying to get true value from all the interventions that we use.

NHS RightCare provides us with resources that help raise questions. These resources enable us to identify variation and question whether it is warranted or unwarranted. The resources and data are not there to provide definitive answers, but rather to help generate discussion within local health economies. The information provided by NHS RightCare is not intended to be used in isolation. There may be caveats to the data provided that need to be taken into consideration, and local intelligence and interpretation is required before any final conclusions are drawn from any of the data.

From a pharmacy and medicines optimisation perspective, the idea is to provide pharmacists with an opportunity to look at medicines as part of a whole pathway rather than looking at medicines in isolation. Pharmacists are the experts on medicines and may already have a vast amount of data available on medicines either nationally or locally. The NHS RightCare data will help provide some of those links for medicines in relation to pathways and clinical outcomes.

More information on NHS RightCare can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare/>

KEY MESSAGES:

- Pharmacists are experts in medicines and their use.
- NHS England invests £16.8 billion in medicines annually, pharmacists are an integral part of ensuring that the NHS gets the best value from this investment.
- Pharmacists' skills, expertise and knowledge can support patients to get the most from their medicines, improving patient outcomes.