The Impact of Adding a Practice Pharmacist to the Team in a GP Surgery
S Woffinden, M Holmes
Haxby Group Practice
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In 2012 Haxby Group employed a Practice Pharmacist. The pharmacist is essentially full time and covers 4 of the York sites equating to 20,000 patients. The pharmacist is an independent prescriber with previous experience in hospital pharmacy and community pharmacy.

The pharmacist has had a significant impact!

The impact on patients
- Improved prescription turn around
- Repeat medication synchronized so needs reauthorisation less often
- Repeat lists up to date with unused items removed
- Patients access to the pharmacist for medication queries
- Prescription problems highlighted sooner resulting in better care
- Close relationship with GPs with appropriate signposting to GPs
- New medication is added to the repeat scripts quickly following hospital discharge - this saves confusion, and increases medication safety and optimises treatment
- Delivers Patient Education events

The impact on Reception team
- Access for medication queries
- Delivers training related to prescription management
- Resulted in fewer prescription queries

The impact on Nurses
- Availability for medication advice
- Delivered training for student nurses, practice nurses and those on the prescribing course
- Reviewed clinic templates as new guidance has emerged

The impact on Medical Students
- Individual tutorials covering pharmacology and prescribing
- …with Fantastic feedback!

The impact on Community Pharmacies
- Improved communication
- Improved Pharmacy/Practice relationship
- Proactive management of medicine availability
- Efficient management of medication changes for “tray” patients

The impact on GPs
- Processing/overseeing all prescription requests
- Freed up significant amount of GP time
- GPs focus on more appropriate work eg complex multimorbidity
- Increased same day access to GPs
- Highlights high risk prescribing eg opiate use
- Resulted in drug budget savings
- Provides medication advice service
- Contribute to MDT assessment of ‘at risk’ patients
- Chronic disease management clinics
- Completes DRUM review for Dispensing patients

The impact on Care Homes
- Repeat Prescriptions dealt with quickly
- Repeat prescriptions regularly reviewed
- Reduction in polypharmacy
- Improved patient care
- More efficient response

The impact on GP Registrars and Advanced Nurse Practitioners
- Pharmacist able to give medication and prescribing advice & training

Future Initiatives
- Increased in-house involvement in GP registrar education
- Increased number of Patient Education Events
- Pre-Registration pharmacist placements - increasing knowledge of primary care
- Expand Pharmacist team to cover all patients across the practice and Federation
- Involvement in Acute Care team
- Increased involvement on Chronic Disease management

In Summary
Introducing a pharmacist to Haxby Group has improved the patient experience as prescriptions are reviewed more regularly, produced quicker, there are more acute appointments for a patient to see a GP, GPs have now got more time to spend on complex patients. Pharmacists also have a clear role in education and training for all practice staff. The clinical role of the pharmacist in the primary care setting is one that has the potential to carry on improving the way GPs work, and improves teamwork with allied health professionals.