



SAFER PRESCRIBING FOR FRAILITY

PART OF THE MEDICINE OPTIMISATION PROGRAMME

Safer Prescribing for Frailty

Background

The population is ageing, with increasing incidence of people living with frailty and multi-morbidity who have complex needs. The 5 Year Forward View recognises the need for increasing support for the frail population, whilst recognising the need to deliver care more locally i.e. in primary care.

Medication review in frailty care is important as there are higher levels of avoidable harm amongst older people due to polypharmacy. The King's Fund document 'Polypharmacy and medicines optimisation: making it safe and sound' (2013) details how patients experiencing polypharmacy are at higher risk from adverse drug events and more likely to be admitted to hospital. In recognition of this, from July 2017, new GMS contractual arrangements will require GPs to use an appropriate tool, e.g. electronic Frailty Index (eFI), to identify patients aged 65 and over who are living with moderate and severe frailty. Patients identified as living with severe frailty, will receive clinical review which will include providing an annual medication review and other clinically relevant interventions.

As part of the Healthy Ageing Collaborative's work to reduce inappropriate prescribing and prevent harm from medication for older people living with frailty the Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Sciences Network's Improvement Academy, in partnership with Connected Health Cities, will support primary care teams from across the five CCGs currently hosted by the HaRD CCG Medicines Optimisation Team (MMT) to implement systematic evidence based medication reviews for people with frailty, this will include using the eFI and the SystemOne automated STOPP protocol.

The Safer Prescribing for Frailty project is supported by the Health Foundation, an independent health care charity, as part of its £1.5 million Innovatng for Improvement programme: <http://www.health.org.uk/news/twenty-two-new-innovative-projects-selected-improve-quality-health-care-0>

Benefits for participating teams

In addition to improving patient safety, participating teams can expect:

- Training in the theory of behaviour change and behaviour change tools (for more information see: <http://www.improvementacademy.org/tools-and-resources/abc-for-patient-safety-toolkit.html>)
- Training in change management and quality improvement techniques
- Opportunities to learn and share good practice within and beyond your service
- Opportunities to raise and address specific issues you are facing in clinical practice
- A package of on-going support from the Improvement Academy team including on-site visits, phone calls and email contact.

For further information please contact:

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