

Pilot to improve medicines safety and reduce waste

NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS South Sefton CCG are launching a new pilot scheme on 1 September 2016 as part of their medicines waste campaign that will greatly improve patient safety as well as cutting the high cost of unused medication in the borough.

The pilot will stop pharmacies from being able to order repeat prescriptions from 19 GP practices on behalf of patients. It will improve medicines safety and reduce the cost of wasted medications, estimated to cost the local NHS at least £2 million each year.

It does not affect anyone who already orders their own repeat prescriptions directly from their practices and importantly, special arrangements will be made for vulnerable patients, who are not able to order their own prescriptions directly from their GP practice.

Why introduce this pilot?

Whilst the new system may be inconvenient for some, it does address some very real medicines safety issues, at the same time as safeguarding precious NHS funds.

It means that from 1 September, GP practices will be able to more safely monitor repeat prescriptions for these patients, ensuring their repeat medications remain appropriate for their individual medical conditions, which often change over time.

We know that the current system often leads to patients receiving medications they do not require, yet because their pharmacy orders their repeats for them people continue to receive excess medicines, which is a real safety issue and we need to end this.

So, as well as introducing safer prescribing systems, the scheme will also save money, enabling more vital NHS funds to be spent on priority healthcare benefiting a greater number of Sefton residents.

How has the pilot been developed?

The pilot is based on a scheme designed by NHS Luton CCG, which was found to be successful in tackling the medicines safety issues detailed above and reducing high levels of wasted medicines.

Sefton's medicines management team has adapted the system to fit local needs and has taken account of feedback from Luton's original scheme.

Which practices are involved?

NHS Southport and Formby CCG	NHS South Sefton CCG
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapel Lane Surgery• The Hollies Surgery• The Village Surgery• Freshfield Surgery• Marshside Surgery• Corner Surgery• Ainsdale Village• Trinity Practice• Kew Surgery• The Grange Surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bootle Village Surgery• Bridge Road Medical Centre• High Pastures• Hightown Village Surgery• North Park Medical Centre• Park Street Surgery• 15 Sefton Road• The Strand• Thornton Village Surgery

Is this just about saving money?

No, first and foremost, the pilot addresses some very real medicines safety issues. However, it will also save vital NHS funds which can be better spent on priority healthcare benefiting a greater number of Sefton residents. The CCGs have a total savings target of over £23 million in 2016-2017 to meet their financial duties.

Have patients been involved in developing the pilot?

Ahead of the pilot's launch, Sefton's medicines management team has been speaking to local community and patient groups to gain views about introducing the new system for ordering repeat medications. People were also asked for views at each CCG's Big Chat events. You can hear what attendees thought about the pilot, along with some of the other schemes discussed at the Big Chats, by watching a short film by clicking the links below.

<http://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/our-chat-events/big-chat-6/>

<http://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/our-chat-events/big-chat-6/>

How long will the pilot last?

The pilot will initially run for six months in the 19 participating practices and patients will be invited to give their views and experiences as part of the evaluation of the system.

How are patients being informed about the pilot?

Those patients affected by the scheme have been sent a letter from their practice and the two CCGs, giving them full details of how the pilot will work and what it means for them.

Anyone who has queries or who wants to know more is being asked to contact the PALS team on 0800 218 2333 or email CMCSU.PALS@nhs.net

How can people feedback now?

Information about the pilot can be found on each CCG's website and patients or carers affected by the pilot are invited to complete a short online survey with their views.

<http://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/current-exercises/pilot-scheme-for-ordering-repeat-medicines/>

<http://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/current-exercises/pilot-scheme-for-ordering-repeat-medicines/>

Want to know more, or tell us what you think?

If you have any queries email them to communications@sefton.nhs.uk