

# A Healthier Future for Hertfordshire and west Essex – workstream news

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## Medicines Optimisation Workstream

This update is to let you know what's been happening in the STP medicines optimisation workstream, so you can keep colleagues in your organisation well informed.

### Integrating NHS Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation

NHS England has announced the HWE STP has been selected to be one of only seven STPs to take part in a programme exploring how pharmacy and medicines optimisation can be embedded into the breadth of work across the STP. There is up to £150,000 funding, for 12 months, available per STP area which can be used to appoint additional senior pharmacy resource, programme management or backfill existing members of the medicine's optimisation workstream to deliver the outputs.

The expectation is that the STP areas will agree to:

- identify a dedicated senior NHS pharmacy and medicines optimisation programme manager who will facilitate the necessary processes on a STP/ICS level to deliver the outputs required
- Establish a NHS pharmacy and medicines leadership group that reports into the STP/ICS structure and has board level sponsorship
- Demonstrate the process for identifying a Professional Lead for Pharmacy and Medicines, ideally already working at clinical director level
- Develop and implement a NHS Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Transformation plan addressing key national and local priorities ensuring it is fully integrated into wider STP/ICS plans
- Involve stakeholders

The working group's partner organisations will contribute to the implementation template to specify what is already happening locally, any future initiatives and how these align these to the STP priorities and development of the STP clinical strategy.

### WHO alerts for medicines safety

The Chief Pharmacist at Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust has shared the findings of a Department of Health and Social Care review into the evidence base on medication errors in England. Going forwards it was agreed that an STP wide mapping exercise would be carried out to determine organisational compliance to the recommendations of the report, and how STP partner organisations could work across organisational boundaries to improve medication safety. It was also agreed that medication safety would remain a standing item on the MO agenda going forwards.

### Consultant dietician update

Brief updated [oral nutritional supplement \(ONS\) guidance for primary care](#) has been produced in Hertfordshire, which makes it much clearer that the majority of ONS products are not required within care homes, where homemade versions of virtually equal nutritional value can be provided. Guidance within West Essex is very similar and Alison Smith, Prescribing Support Consultant Dietitian for Herts Valleys CCG and Lara Ellison, Prescribing Support Dietitian for West Essex CCG are working closely together to ensure a consistent message regarding identification and treatment of malnutrition in the community is shared across the STP.

### Medicines Optimisation Programme Report

The start date for the implementation for the Open the Bag campaign has been delayed until the 5<sup>th</sup> November due to a number of factors including the lack of funding for printing and distribution of promotional posters and stickers. The workstream members were however able to agree that they would explore how to overcome the shortfall and agreed to collectively contribute to the £6,000 required to ensure the project was not delayed any longer than necessary.

### What next?

The medicines optimisation working group meets again on Wednesday 17 October.

