



Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe

Working Group on Medication
Review

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Medication Review Developments in Ireland

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Pharmacy Practice in Ireland

- Mainly traditional role
- Many Pharmacies now providing auxiliary services e.g. diabetes screening, cholesterol testing
- Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) Baseline Study of Community Pharmacy Services suggests that almost every pharmacist interviewed, agreed that pharmacy in Ireland could and should expand into two key areas: **medicines use reviews (MURs)** and **minor ailment schemes**

Government Support for MUR

- Report on Primary Medical Care in the Community – February 2010
- Recommends that the HSE examine the feasibility of contracting pharmacists to expand their patient care role, to include **medicine use reviews**, minor ailment schemes and health promotion/screening services



Pharmacy Ireland 2020 Working Group – April 2008

- How the pharmacy profession can contribute to the development of a more integrated approach to healthcare in Ireland in order to enhance services to patients
- A national policy for pharmaceutical care, medicines management and medicine use review should be developed.
- A research group might be an appropriate approach to monitor and report on the introduction of medicines management and MUR, and to monitor the scheme on an on-going basis, including a cost/benefit pharmacoeconomic assessment on an annual basis



MUR Pilot Study

- Based upon these findings it was suggested that a Pilot scheme be created to establish the viability of an MUR programme.
- Pharmacists and GPs in Primary Care Teams were invited to participate in the scheme.



Participation

- Pharmacists were contacted through the Irish Pharmacy Union regarding their interest in participating in a Medication Review Pilot
- 56 Pharmacies attended training for the Medication Review process
- 43 of these completed the practice medication review



Participation

- Of the 43 trained, 19 completed the first stage of the Medication Review
- This involved 132 patients, an average of 7 patients per Pharmacy.
- 13 Pharmacist completed the follow-up Medication Review.



Participation

- A summary of Primary Care Team (PCT) with a total of seventy-two listed General Practitioners (GPs) in thirteen individual PCT was provided.
- Examination of the MUR documents established that thirty-six of these GPs were referenced as having one or more patients who participated in the scheme. In addition, four other GPs whose names were not on the original list were also indicated as having participated



Patient Selection

- Patients were identified by the Pharmacist, the Primary Care Team (PCT) or via consultation by both parties
- 45.45% were recommended for review by the Pharmacists
- 15.15% by the PCT, 19.7% were selected after co-ordination between the two groups

Patients

- 69.85% of patients were General Medical Scheme patients (GMS)
- GMS patients do not pay fees for their GP consultation or any medications that are prescribed for them, it is paid by the State.
- 11.76% were Drug Payment Scheme (DPS) patients
- DPS patients pay for their GP consultation, in addition and any medications up to € 120 per month are paid by the patient, the balance by the State.
- 7.35% were Long-Term Illness (LTI) patients
- LTI patients do not pay for any medications relating to their specific medical condition, any auxiliary medications not relating to the condition are paid for.

Medication Review Form

Patient:		GP:		For Office Use
<input type="checkbox"/> For information only - no action required <input type="checkbox"/> Follow your actions agreed below <input type="checkbox"/> Please discuss with your GP This is your copy of the form. You may wish to show it to other health care professionals.		<input type="checkbox"/> For information only - no action required <input type="checkbox"/> Please consider the recommendations proposed below Community Drug Scheme <input type="checkbox"/> GMS <input type="checkbox"/> DPS <input type="checkbox"/> LTI <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Patient details		GP details		
Title:	First Name:	Surname:	GP Name:	
Sex:	Tel:	Date of Birth:	Practice Address:	
Address:		GP Referral Made: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Review identified or requested by: Pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> PCT (GP / PHN) <input type="checkbox"/> Both:		Date Usage Review Performed:		Date for Review:
		and agreed by all parties		
Action plan				
Drug (s)	Issue	Recommendation	For consideration by:	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> GP <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> GP <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> GP <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Pharmacy details				
Pharmacist Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):		Pharmacist PSI registration no.:	Pharmacy GMS number:	Tel:
Pharmacy Stamp				
Pharmacist Signature				
Overview page				
This review is based on information available to the Pharmacist held on the pharmacy Patient Medication Record system and from information provided by the patient				



GP referral made

- This section asked if a GP referral was required based upon the findings of the Medication Review
- 40.91% of patients were referred by the Pharmacist



Action Plan

- Main focus of the Medication review
- This section highlighted the areas of importance for the GPs attention
- Here the Pharmacist could make recommendations based upon the information provided by the patients
- It also asked to select for whose attention the issue pertained to i.e.

Action Plan - Example

Drug(s)	Issue	Recommendation	For consideration by:
Losepine	Patient finds tablet container difficult to open	Pharmacist to dispense medications in easy to open container	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> GP <input type="checkbox"/> Other:



Action Plan

- There was a total of 260 “actions” to be considered, an average of 1.96 actions per plan.
- 47.4% of these were for the consideration of the GP.
- 24.8% and 24.2% were for the attention of the Patient and Pharmacist respectively.



Medication Data

- 1239 medications were prescribed in total, this equated to on average 9 medications per patient
- Of the 1239, the patient understood why they were taking these medications in 86.9% of cases



Compliance

- Patients were asked to classify their adherence to their medications
- 66% reported “always” taking their medications
- Only 2.3% stated they “never” took their medications as prescribed



More information provided

- Pharmacists were asked if they provided more information on the use of the medicine
- This asked to provide extra information on any advice given, counselling points, patient issues
- 36.8% reported more information was provided



Side-effects reported

- 10.7% of patients reported side-effects from their prescribed medications
- This would correspond with approximate number of patients who report they seldom or never take their medications.

Feasibility of the study - Pharmacists

- All pharmacies were contacted again with a questionnaire. A total of fifteen were returned for analysis
- 93% felt that the process highlighted the positive role of Pharmacists (Strongly Agree and Agree)
- 93% believed that patients had an improved understanding of their medications. (Strongly Agree and Agree)
- 80% disagreed that there was GP resistance to the programme while 73% disagreed there was patient resistance to the scheme (Strongly Disagree and Disagree)
- 93% would like to continue the MUR pilot



Feasibility of the Study - GPs

- 63% believed that patients concerns were highlighted and resolved quicker (Strongly Agree and Agree).
- 63% believed that patients were more inclined to take their medications as prescribed (Strongly Agree and Agree).
- 88% believed that patients had improved understanding of their medications (Strongly Agree and Agree)
- All respondents believed that Pharmacists should be a source of information for GPs on patient compliance (Strongly Agree and Agree).
- 88% considered that Pharmacists were adequately trained and had confidence in their clinical skills in providing the MUR (Strongly Agree and Agree).
- 88% stated that the MUR process was a worthwhile use of their time and resources.



Summary

- The study allowed Pharmacists to engage in a new aspect of Patient Care
- Pharmacists seen as part of the Primary Care Team
- Opportunity to identify non-adherence to medications, side-effects and patient understanding.
- Opportunity to create improved working relationship with GPs and Patients



Limitations

- Improvement in patient health outcomes not recorded
- No formal channel of communication between GPs and Pharmacists
- Time consuming
- Resource consuming
- No specific groups targeted



Conclusions

- Pilot has high-lighted the positive role of Pharmacy in this area
- Excellent feedback from GPs and Pharmacists
- Future potential to expand pilot
- Future potential to target specific patient groups so as patient benefit can be established



Questions ???



Thank you