To: All CCG Pharmacy Leads/Heads of Medicines Management  
CC: All Secondary Care Chief Pharmacists

Dear CCG Colleague,

Re: Collaborative audit across England on the quality of medication related information provided when transferring patients from secondary care to primary care and the subsequent medicines reconciliation in primary care

We would like to invite you to participate in a collaborative audit that we are undertaking across England on the quality of medication related information provided when transferring patients from secondary care to primary care and the subsequent medicines reconciliation in primary care. Evidence currently suggests that the transfer of medicines related information from secondary care to primary care and the subsequent follow up of information in primary care is not optimal1,2,3,4,5.

The audit methodology and tools have been developed by a steering group who have also piloted and validated the approach across five CCGs. The pilot indicates that each patient discharge audited will take approximately 20-30 min. The audit requires the data collection to be undertaken in the GP surgery by a primary care (Practice/CCG/CSU) Pharmacist. Each CCG is encouraged to audit as many patient discharges as they can (minimum of 1 patient discharge audit per 50,000 population within CCG is required to participate). The data collection for the audit can take place anytime between Monday 4th January and Friday 29th January 2016. All data must be submitted to the Medicines Use and Safety Division by no later than 31st January 2016.

Each CCG will be provided an analysis of their data submitted along with the country-wide dataset which can be used for local purposes. In addition secondary care NHS trusts will be provided with data identified about discharges from their organisation for their own local use. No patient identifiable data will be collected, and for the purposes of any publications and reports all data will be anonymised.

If you would like to participate in this collaborative audit please kindly let me know via the email address below. Upon this you will be provided with all the necessary information to undertake the audit.

If you require any further information please contact me directly on chetanshah@nhs.net.

Yours Sincerely

Chetan Shah
Associate Director – Medicines Reconciliation Lead

References
2. Grimes TC, Duggan CA, Delaney TP et al. Medication details documented on hospital discharge: cross sectional observational study of factors associated with medication non-reconciliation.