

Medicines Use and Safety (MUS): Highlights 2019–20

The MUS team is small, consisting of 12 pharmacists (equivalent to approximately 5 WTE), who combine their MUS work with roles in clinical practice. This gives them subject knowledge and 'real world' insight which ensures credibility with patients and healthcare professionals.

The team continues to contribute to key work streams as one of the four functional groups of the NHS [Specialist Pharmacy Service](#) (SPS). Our work focuses on how to use medicines safely aligned with the SPS ethos 'do once and share'. We work closely with others, including professional bodies and organisations in order to maximise the scope, usefulness and reach of our outputs. These collaborations and shared learning became particularly important in Q4 as we provided rapid, targeted outputs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Timely, usable, resources, shared widely, have supported healthcare professionals across the disciplines. Our outputs have contributed directly to the mission to improve patient safety within the NHS and partner organisations. MUS has adapted to the needs of our users to reflect current and emerging priorities. We have used our extensive experience of delivering webinars and working remotely to support others in different ways of working including utilising digital technology to facilitate meetings, training and networking.

Core activities

- Best practice networks
- Webinars and face-to-face events
- MSO webinar meetings
- National collaborative audits
- Practical resources
- Patient Group Directions (PGDs) - Q&As
- Medicines Governance Do Once Programme
- National and international publications

We receive regular feedback from our events which we use to shape our future programme.

We have supported learning for over 2000 attendees at webinars and more than 90% recommend MUS events to a colleague. A detailed list of outputs is presented below.



"Really well presented. Related information to real life scenarios and the 'real world' that we all work in."

Attendee at PGD Learning Event

MUS Outputs 2019-2020 [click for links](#)

Meetings

National drivers - their impact on CHS & Safety aspects of anticipatory prescribing in CHS

Health and Justice Pharmacy Network

Patient safety: the national strategy and examples from practice

Older People Network (OPNet) Supporting people to age well: Opportunities in the NHS Long Term Plan

Patient Group Directions A Learning Event for Pharmacists new to PGDs

Medicine Use and Safety Network meeting Shared Decision Making in Medicines Use: Making it Practical

Resources 2019-20

- PGD templates for sexual and reproductive health We have published PGD templates for both **sexual** and **reproductive** health that organisations can adapt and adopt for local use. These templates have been developed with the clinical expertise of national subject matter experts.
- Self-Administration of Medicines – Brief Guidance and examples from practice Self-Administration of medicines is a multi-disciplinary process designed to give patients the opportunity to continue to take their own medication whilst in hospital. This **guidance** is designed to assist organisations in implementing such schemes.
- Consultant Pharmacist Toolkit [link](#)
- Prioritising pharmaceutical care delivery in the acute inpatient setting: Literature review [link](#)
- Patient Group Direction use in Primary Care Networks [link](#)
- When Patient Group Directions (PGDs) are not required [link](#)
- Can off label or unlicensed medications be administered or supplied under a HMR 2012 schedule 17 exemption? [link](#)
- Medicines Shortages and Patient Group Directions [link](#)
- National Ambulance Patient Group Directions [link](#)
- Medicines Governance Do Once Programme [link](#)
- Drug packaging and labelling during COVID-19: poster and screensaver for teams. Organisations will be procuring medicines with different packaging and labelling during the emergency period relating to COVID-19. An A4 poster and screensaver to raise awareness and highlight the need for extra vigilance is now [link](#)
- Use of PGDs in pandemics (e.g. COVID-19) This **webpage** summarises and links to resources which may support organisations using PGDs during a pandemic.

Webinars

End of life care – focus on transitions of care

Why is Frailty Important to how we Practice as Pharmacists

Transitions of care in mental health

PhiMED: Patient-held information about medicines

Written Instructions for the administration of seasonal 'flu vaccination for staff [Extra Webinar](#)

English Deprescribing Network (EDeN)

Pharmacy co-production in service development

Controlled drugs and the impact of 'Gosport'

Medication Safety At Home – Key Findings From a Parent Focus Group

Human Factors

Health and Justice – Planned Upgrades to the Health and Justice Information System Prescribing and Medicines Functions

Clinical Prioritisation by GP Practice Pharmacists

Publications 2019-20 by date:

1. Ward J, Kalsi D, Barnett N, Fulford BK, Handa A. Shared decision making in chronic medication use: Scenarios depicting exemplary care. *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*. 2019 Apr 20. [link](#)
2. Jubraj B, Marvin V, Ward E. Developing a doctor–pharmacist consensus on medicine-related problems in older adults. *Clinical Pharmacist*. April 2019 Volume 11 No 4 [link](#)
3. Barnett N Opportunities for collaboration between pharmacists and clinical pharmacologists to support medicines optimisation in the UK. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 15 Apr 2019 [link](#)
4. Le Bosquet K, Barnett N, Minshull J. Deprescribing: Practical Ways to Support, Person-centred, Evidence Based Deprescribing Pharmacy. 2019 Sep;7(3):129. [link](#)
5. Jubraj B I'm proud of pharmacists taking the lead on World Patient Safety Day The *Pharmaceutical Journal* October 2019 [link](#)
6. Smith H, Miller K, Barnett N, Oboh L *et al* Person-Centred Care Including Deprescribing for Older People *Pharmacy* 2019, 7(3), 101; [link](#)
7. Bhatti S, Wake N, Jani Y Evaluating the effectiveness of digital communication within the Medication Safety Officer network UKCPA Poster Presentation 2019 [link](#)
8. Minshull J, Barnett N. Managing polypharmacy: teamwork in general practice. *Prescriber*. 2020 Jan;31(1):25-9.[link](#)
9. Garfield S, Furniss D, Husson F, Jubraj B *et al* How can patient-held lists of medication enhance patient safety? A mixed-methods study with a focus on user experience. *BMJ Quality & Safety* Published January 2020 [link](#)
10. Kantilal K, Kantilal K &, Barnett N. It's time for comprehensive polypharmacy reviews for older people with cancer *The Pharmaceutical Journal* January 2020 [link](#)
11. Barnett N, Minshull J, Shah N & Easthall C. Feasibility of using CollaboRATE to evaluate pharmacist-led medicines-related consultations in UK hospitals: a pilot study *Eur J Hosp Pharm* 2020 [link](#)
12. Kantilal K, Kantilal K &, Barnett N. It's time for comprehensive polypharmacy reviews for older people with cancer *The Pharmaceutical Journal* January 2020 [link](#)
13. Barnett N, Minshull J. Algebory M *et al* The Scottish Polypharmacy Guidance app in practice *Prescriber* 18 June 2020 [link](#) Publication 31 June 2020 p10-13
14. Adams D, Jubraj B. Medicines Use in Learning Disability in Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of People with Learning Disabilities (book chapter) Springer June 2020
15. Poots AJ, Jubraj B, Ward E, Wycoco A, Barnett N. Education around medication review and deprescribing: a survey of medical and pharmacy students' perspectives *Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety* 2020, Vol. 11: 19 [link](#)

Selected highlights from the Team

PGD were well received:

“This year the first sexual and reproductive health PGD templates have been published. This fantastic joint working with the FSRH and BASHH will ensure organisations have access to PGD templates which are evidence based and supported by national bodies so improving quality and reducing repetition of work”.

Network meetings supported the MUS aim:

“A personal highlight for me was our MUS network meeting in February 2020, before the lockdown. The topic was shared decision-making (SDM) and it was particularly inspiring to see

attendees making the link between SDM and medication safety. Links such as these are often neglected, but medicines ‘use’ and medicines ‘safety’ are two sides of the same coin.”

Developing the role of the consultant pharmacist:

“We contributed to developing the refreshed ‘Consultant Pharmacist Guidance published in January, worked with RPS to support new methods of Post Approval and Individual Credentialing, linked to the SPS consultant pharmacist toolkit on our website”

Plans for 2020/21

As the challenge of managing COVID 19 is ongoing, there is a level of uncertainty around planned activities. The team has been praised for its response and will continue to prioritise activities that relate to pandemic management, however, in the absence of this:

- We will continue as a well-integrated element of the national Medicines Safety Improvement Programme to contribute to the WHO ‘Medication Without Harm’ 3rd Global Patient Safety Challenge.
- We will support and develop all our networks; increasing webinar capacity and exploring remote network events will aid this endeavour.
- The development of prioritised clinical resources, guidance and medicines governance documents (including template PGDs) for use within healthcare organisations will remain as key “do once and share” outputs.
- We will be conducting an engagement survey with our users and will ensure a robust prioritisation tool is used to ensure our work focusses where it is needed most.
- We will continue to respond to feedback from our users, aligning activities with direction from commissioners and stakeholders.

Future activities planned include network events, which may be delivered using remote conferencing facilities:

- National event: What are the opportunities for Community Health Services (CHS) within the new primary care networks (PCNs)? 6 October 2020 CHS Network
- The impact of Electronic Patient Records (EPR), COVID-19 and virtual consultations on pharmacy – what next for clinical prioritisation in hospital practice? 3 November 2020 MUS Network

July 2020

MUS team:

Carina Livingstone [CL](#) (Director, currently on secondment to NHSE&I),
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Silvia Ceci [SCe](#) (CPhO Fellow);
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Sue Overton [SO](#) (administrator);
Nicola Wake [NW](#) (Medication Safety Lead);
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