

# Refer to Pharmacy

## Patient support with medications after hospital discharge

Karen Murden (Community Pharmacy Humber Pharmacy Services Lead)

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# Agenda

7:10pm	Background and Aims
7:20pm	What happens at the hospital
7:30pm	How to action referrals in Community Pharmacy
7:45pm	Breaking down barriers
8:00pm	Case Studies
8:20pm	Understanding Immediate Discharge Letter
8:30pm	Cardiology drug regimens and counselling points
8:50pm	Questions
9:00pm	Finish



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# Refer to Pharmacy



12 June 2019

Khalida Rahman  
Programme Manager, TCAM

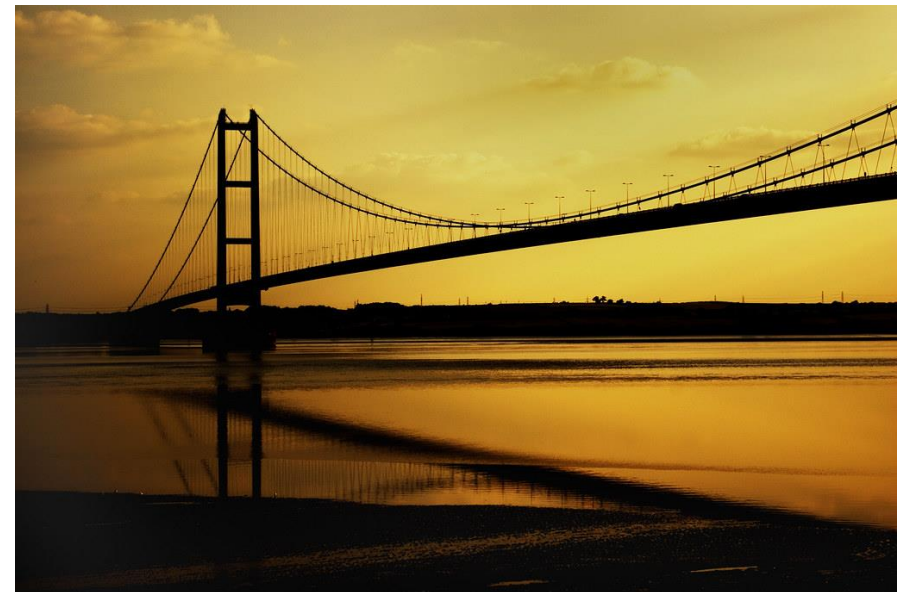




Our vision is to improve the health and prosperity of our region by unlocking the potential of new ideas.

We act as a bridge between healthcare providers, commissioners, academia and industry.

We connect these sectors to build a pipeline of solutions from research and product development through to Implementation and commercialisation.





# Challenge



Medicines are the most used intervention in the NHS and a vital part of the delivery of modern health care, however, estimated total NHS spending on medicines in England has grown from £13 billion in 2010 to 18.2 billion in 2018, an average growth of 5% per year.

Adding to this, preventable harm costs the NHS over £2.5 billion a year.





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## Solution

The **NHS Long-Term Plan** recognises the challenges around the management of medicines and sets out plans to provide patients, leaving hospital, with extra support to take their prescribed medicines.

This is what the Refer to Pharmacy initiative is designed to tackle.







# Impact



In 2018-2019, across Yorkshire and the Humber, **4806** referrals were completed via Refer to Pharmacy, contributing to savings of **£13.8 million**, reducing length of stay by **56,704** days and **1,004** fewer readmissions in 2018-19.

For 2019-20, savings of **£28.8 million** are projected, based on a reduction in length of stay of **113,406** days and **2,007** fewer readmissions.



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# Spread across YHAHSN



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Trust	Platform	Status	Funding
Airedale	Web based	Going Live	Committed
Bradford	Web based	Going Live	Committed
Calderdale and Huddersfield	Partially integrated	Live	Paid
Harrogate	Web based	26/06/19	Planned
Mid Yorkshire	TBC	TBC	TBC
Leeds and York Partnership	Web based	Live	Paid
South West Yorkshire Partnership	Web based	02/07/19	Planned







# Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



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Between August 2018 and February 2019 (7 months)

Activity	Totals
No of referrals	2,717
No of referrals acceptance	2,233
No of reviews completed	82%





# Benefits to patients



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Other additional services provided have included:

- Easy open tops
- Chart forms
- Easy open tops
- Home delivery
- Labels
- Medicines reconciliation
- Pharmacy managed repeats
- Public Health Interventions including flu vaccination and smoking cessation.





# Actual Health System Indicative Savings



In 2018/2019 Hull received 111 referrals via the Refer to Pharmacy process.

No of completed referrals to date	Actual Trust Savings	Actual CCG Savings	Overall Cost Savings
111	£26,826	£28,902	£50,738

Indicative savings are based on:

- Trust savings through reduced readmissions within 30 days
- CCG savings from reduced readmissions more than 30 days





# Potential Health System Indicative Savings



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Admissions	Number	Calculated	From Tables
Bed Days	260	£ 413,400	£ 413,400
	6584	£ 2,060,792	£ 2,060,792
		£ 2,474,192	£ 2,474,192
		Cash Savings	£ 806,784
		Capacity	£ 1,667,408
			£ 2,474,192





# What is our ask?

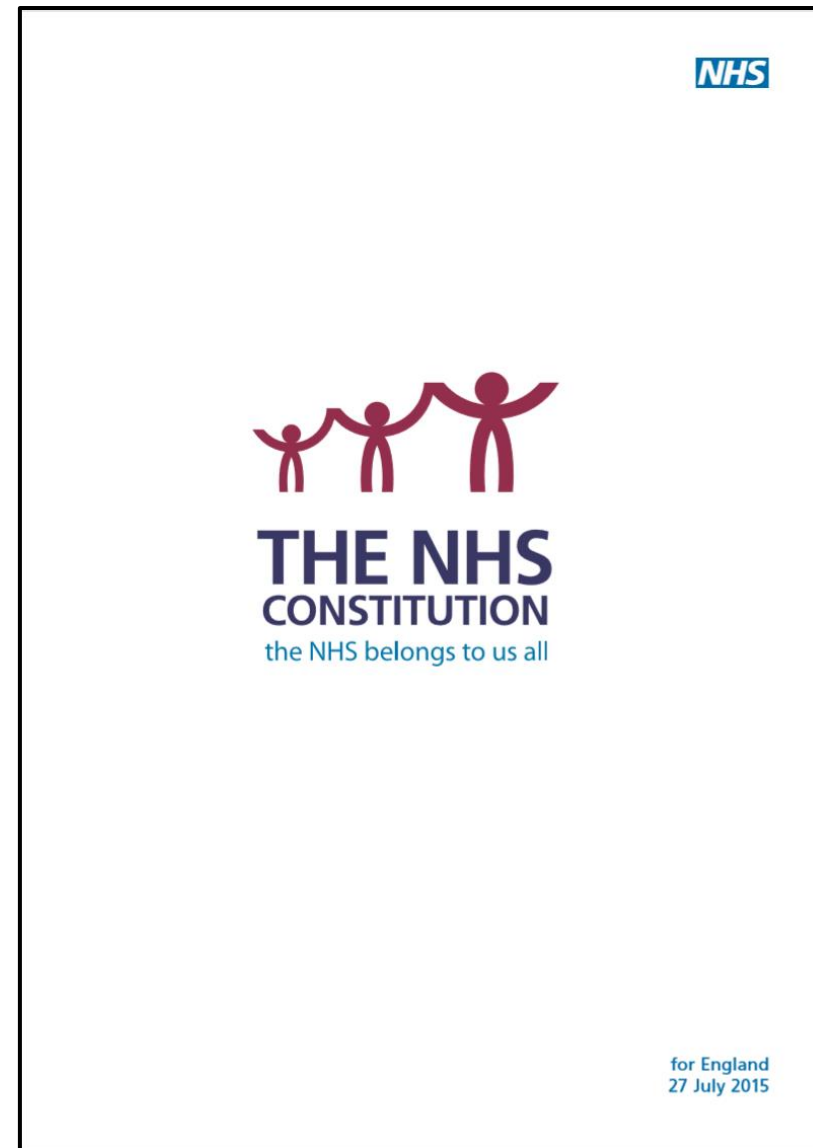


The NHS belongs to us all and we each have a responsibility to maximise our NHS resources for the benefit of our community.



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## Further information (3.20 minutes)



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# Resources



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YHAHSN website: <https://www.yhahsn.org.uk/service/population-health-service/transfer-care-around-medicines/>

Leeds Teaching Hospitals 'Connect with Pharmacy' <http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/a-z-of-services/pharmacy-services/connect-with-pharmacy/>

BMJ Open - New transfer of care initiative of electronic referral from hospital to community pharmacy in England: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/6/10/e012532>

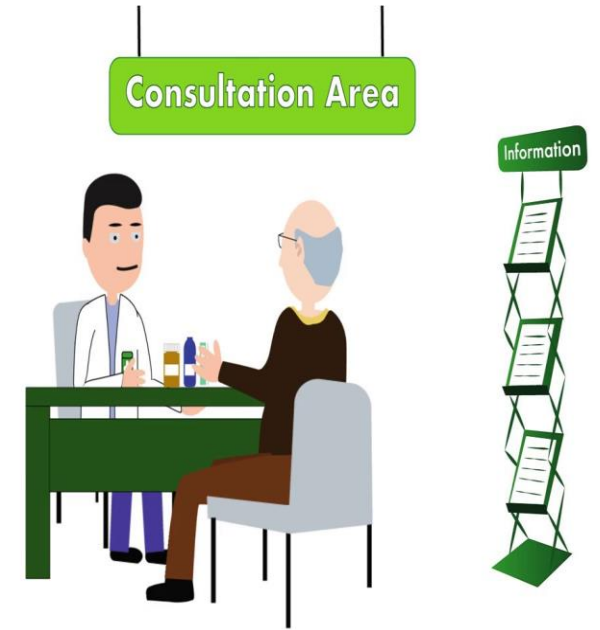
PharmOutcomes slides: <https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PharmOutcomes-Smarter-referrals-manage-your-referrals-to-pharmacies...-in-no-time-at-all.pdf>

Me and My Medicines: <https://meandmymedicines.org.uk/>



## Refer to Community Pharmacy

- Pilot project since April 2016 on the cardiology wards at Castle Hill Hospital referring patients to their community pharmacy
- Improve transfer of care and clinical information between care settings
- Pick up on unintended discrepancies after discharge- medicines reconciliation
- Check post-discharge medicines adherence consultation and support with medication changes
- Update a patient's pharmacy record with medication changes to improve safety



## Refer to Community Pharmacy

- Community Pharmacy Humber and Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust are working in partnership to expand the project.
- The project is supported and working in partnership with Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network (YHAHSN) – worked Leeds project and Calderdale
- Project designed to:
  - Improve the transfer of clinical information – copy of hospital discharge letter attached to referral
  - Expand the referral criteria
  - Expand the service to more wards and increase the referral numbers – business as usual
  - Increase awareness to community pharmacies



## What happens at the hospital

- Identify a patient suitable for a refer to community pharmacy
- This process can take place at any opportunity during the admission:
  - During medicines reconciliation
  - At point of discharge
- Patient consent is obtained and documented on either:
  - Patient's drug chart or discharge prescription
  - Usual/chosen community pharmacy
  - Patient telephone number
- Once the patient is discharged from hospital
  - A referral is made and information entered on the PharmOutcome programme with 2-3 days after discharge

Exit

Logged in as: Yvonne Holloway from Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Hull Royal Infirmary)

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## Recent and outstanding messages

Search

Message color key: **Requires Action** Unread Message

[Click here to show full Inbox](#)

Exit

Logged in as: Yvonne Holloway from Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Hull Royal Infirmary)

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## Transfer of Care (ToC) Hospital referral

Provision Date

Patient Name

Date of Birth

Enter as dd-mmm-yyyy (eg 23-Feb-1989)

Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Trans

Ethnicity

Postcode

Search

Address

NHS Number

If neither the client nor the provider know the NHS Number, you can enter "Unknown". If the client has never been issued with an NHS Number, you can enter "Not Issued".

Contact Details

GP Practice name &

address

☒ try to filter results by "nearest first" ...

... nearest to either patient postcode (if found)  
otherwise your provider postcode

Please advise the patient that the community pharmacy will call to arrange an appointment within 3 working days



Consultant

Allergies

Medicines on discharge

Not in use yet

Reasons for changes

Not in use yet

Include dose and formulation changes

Stopped medicines

Not in use yet

Include rationale and recommendations

Name of pharmacy



Select pharmacy for onward referral

Consent to contact  
alternative pharmacy

☐ Yes ☐ No

## Referral to community pharmacy

### Recommendations

- ☐ Review of medication (MUR)
- ☐ New Medication Started (NMS)
- ☐ Repeat dispensing service
- ☐ Home delivery service (if available)
- ☐ Stop smoking service - signpost to stop smoking service
- ☐ Flu vaccination (Sept to March)
- ☐ Medication stopped during admission
- ☐ On admission Monitoring Dosage System (NOMAD)
- ☐ domMAR (East Riding)
- ☐ MRC (Hull)
- ☐ Patient requires an inhaler technique check
- ☐ Patient has adherence/compliance problems
- ☐ Patient is confused about their medications
- ☐ Patient cannot manage packaging
- ☐ Patient cannot read normal labels
- ☐ Patient has stopped medications at home - signpost to bring back to the pharmacy

Tick ALL that apply

MUR for people at risk of problems with medicines after discharge because of social, physical or medicine factors. NMS eligible for all started medicines in the following groups: - Anticoagulants / Antiplatelets - Type 2 diabetes - Hypertension - COPD / Asthma

New medicine

State new medicine if referring for NMS

## Additional Information / reason for referral

Notes

Please provide any further information that may be relevant



relevant

**Please note the following discharge summary 'add' button is waiting approval from the IG committee and therefore must not be used until further notice.**

Discharge Summary

Add...

Completed by

Name

Job title

Contact number

Full external telephone number

☐ Save and enter another

Save

# Referral Follow up in Community Pharmacy

- Community pharmacy receives an email (to the management e-mail address set up on PharmOutcomes), to inform them they have been sent a discharge notification/referral.
- Community Pharmacy to access referral:-
  - Log onto PharmOutcomes
  - Click 'Services Tab'
  - Select the referral 'Transfer of Care (ToC) Pharmacy Referral Follow up'.
  - Open and click to 'accept'.
  - Can print off if wish

- Contact patient (within 3 days of receiving referral) and ask them to come in and bring their medication and/or Discharge letter
- Pharmacist provides support to patient e.g. reconcile medication, MUR or NMS\* or signpost e.g. Stop Smoking Services.
- Pharmacist claims for any service done in usual way.
- Log back onto referral on PharmOutcomes, complete and save the record.

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### Inbox

There are no messages to view

[Requires Action](#) [Unread Message](#)

Once logged in, click on the services  
tab.



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Provide Services

Recent Provisions

Search for Identifier:



Service Centre

Contact your local commissioners if you cannot see services you expect to see.

Outstanding Referrals	Service (stage)	Identifiers	User	Status
2015-05-19	Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up	PP	Somerset Test Pharmacy	Referred
2015-05-19	Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up	MM	Somerset Test Pharmacy	Referred
2015-05-19	Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up	MJ	Somerset Test Pharmacy	Referred

• Click here to show explanations of the Provision Status column

Last Entries	Service (stage)	Identifiers	User	Status
2015-05-19	Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up <i>Already shown above</i>	PP	Somerset Test Pharmacy	Pending awaiting completion
2015-05-19	Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up <i>Already shown above</i>	MM	Somerset Test Pharmacy	Pending awaiting completion
2015-05-19	Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up <i>Already shown above</i>	MJ	Somerset Test Pharmacy	Pending awaiting completion

Unprocessed referrals are found under 'Outstanding Referrals'

Click on the referral to access information

Unprocessed referrals will have a 'Pending' status and remain under 'Outstanding Referrals'

## Reports, Letters & Reminders

 Basic Provision Record

 Completed Referral Form

Provision: 43953641  
 Originally: 19-May-2015 00:00  
 Saved: 19-May-2015 13:12  
 Edited:

## Service Support

## Pharmacy Discharge Referral Follow-up

### Registration Details brought forward

Original Referral	19th May 2015
Referred from	Wellington and District Cottage Hospital (Wellington and District Cottage Hospital)
Patient Name	pefer pan
Date of Birth	25 May 1943
Gender	Male
Address	23 Lancock Street, Rockwell Green, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 9RS
Postcode	TA21 9RS
NHS Number	Unknown
Contact Details	099166677353455
GP Practice (Selection)	Testvale Surgery, 12 Salisbury Road, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO40 3PY (J82132)
Referral reason	Patient cannot read normal labels; Patient may have old/discontinued medicines at home
Support required	NMS, Home delivery service
Hospital team member	delliah
Contact number	0991666354478777255

The patient's telephone number can be found here – use this to make an appointment for and MUR/NMS.

Reasons for the referral can be found here i.e. home delivery, MUR, NMS, Smoking cessation...

### Acceptance and completion of referred service

This referral has been made to your service.  
 If you are unable to complete the referral, you can reject it, but please state the reason for rejection in the Notes box below.  
 If you can accept the referral but cannot complete the associated actions immediately, click on the accept button. You can make relevant notes in the Notes box.

[Complete now](#)
[Accept](#)
[Reject referral](#)

[+] Click to hide Referral History

### Referral History

Referred to Test pharmacy Somerset LPC by Wellington and District Cottage Hospital  
 2015-05-19 13:12:47

Click 'Complete now' if the patient has presented for the consultation.

By clicking the 'Accept' button the referral will stay on the 'Outstanding referrals' section of the 'Services' screen for you to complete at a later date.

Sometimes, a referral may need to be rejected, for instance, if the patient referred does not belong to your pharmacy.

Ensure you write a reason for the rejection.

Acceptance and completion of referred service

This referral has been made to your service.  
If you are unable to complete the referral, you can reject it, but please state the reason for rejection in the Notes box below.  
If you can accept the referral but cannot complete the associated actions immediately, click on the accept button. You can make relevant notes in the Notes box.

This is not our patient - we believe they are a patient at our branch in Anytown.

Complete now Accept Reject referral

[ - ] Click to hide Referral History

Referral History

Referred to Test pharmacy Somerset LPC by Wellington and District Cottage Hospital  
2015-05-19 13:09:03

Once you have written a reason, click on 'Reject Referral' – this will then send the referral back to the hospital for action.



Follow up date

Referral date

Enter as dd-mmm-yyyy (eg 23-Feb-1989)

## Long term condition

Select patient's underlying condition(s)

☐ Respiratory

☐ CVD

☐ Diabetes

☐ Other

## Service Outcomes

**Better understanding of medicines' use** ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Check patient understanding of meds

**Better understanding of when to take medicines** ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Is patient taking correct dose

**Better understanding of how to take medicines** ☐ Yes ☐ No  
e.g. inhaler technique

**Advice given about medical condition** ☐ Yes ☐ No

General patient feedback

Please record patient's comments about the service, e.g. useful after discharge, repetition of information already received, etc.

## Side effects

Has the patient ☐ Yes ☐ No  
experienced an ADR?

Detail of any side  
effects/ADRs

### Outcomes of ADR

- ☐ Manageable and non-harmful - patient to continue
- ☐ Patient stopped taking medicine
- ☐ Refer to GP
- ☐ Refer to hospital
- ☐ Not Applicable - No ADRs

## Pharmacy actions

Changes made and  
advice provided and

reason

This information is essential for service evaluation

**Please provide RiO score**

- ☐ RiO 1 - no likelihood of admission
- ☐ RiO 2 - possible admission
- ☐ RiO 3 - likely admission

An explanation of the RiO score and examples of actions / advice related to each score can be found [here](#)

## Audit of services provided

**Services provided**

- ☐ MUR
- ☐ NMS
- ☐ Home delivery service
- ☐ Stop smoking service
- ☐ Flu vaccination (Sept - March)
- ☐ Other

Tick all that apply, if Other please specify



## Audit of support provided - Tick all that apply

### Support services provided

- ☐ Medicines reconciliation - Do not tick if meds already reconciled
- ☐ Large print labels
- ☐ Talking labels
- ☐ Easy open tops
- ☐ Review dose form
- ☐ Review MDS arrangements
- ☐ MAR chart provided
- ☐ MDS
- ☐ Repeat dispensing
- ☐ Home delivery
- ☐ Other [\_\_\_\_\_]
- ☐ None

Tick ALL that apply, If Other please specify

## Service complete

### Has the service been completed e.g. MUR?

- ☐ Complete - return information to hospital
- ☐ Complete - no hospital follow up required

Please tick return info to hospital if e.g. patient experiences intolerable ADRs, adjustments are made, inhaler technique has been checked, confirmation that a dose has been titrated

## Intervention completed by

Pharmacist Name

GPhC number



## Setting up Management e-mail address

Log onto PharmOutcome

On Homepage underneath 'My Account'

Click 'update my organisation details'

Check the 'management e-mail' is correct

Confirm any changes made.

[Exit](#)

Logged in as: Karen Murden from Community Pharmacy Humber

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## License Details

## Outbox

Not Yet Actioned

Not Yet Read

[Click here to send a new message](#)

## ▼ Two Months Ago (3 messages)

Caroline Hayward 0% ●●●●●●●● (0/2 Actioned)	ACT service: Failure to return contract extension acceptance (Sent 2019-04-30 14:59:00) <i>North East Lincolnshire ACT service provider. (Current contract in place until</i>
Caroline Hayward 35% ●●●●●●●● (76/220 Actioned)	MEDIA ACTIVITY: Urgent : Pharmacy BP testing service Official launch TODAY (Sent 2019-04-10 09:57:00) <i>To all pharmacies I wanted to let you know that the Hull and East Riding</i>
Caroline Hayward 67% ●●●●●●●● (26/39 Read)	Is your pharmacy ready for the official media launch of BP testing service (Sent 2019-04-09 16:16:00) <i>Dear All I wanted to let you know that the Pharmacy BP testing service will be</i>

► Older than 3 months (11 messages)

► Over a year old (27 messages)

► Draft - Not sent yet (6 messages)

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## License Details

Community Pharmacy Humber  
Ltd

[LPC Commissioner]

### Multiple Services

220 Providers (269 Licensed)  
in 3 Data areas (209 Accredited)  
Expires: 2020-03-31

✗ Miquet Imports

✓ SMS Enquiry

✓ SMS Reminders

✗ 0 PharmAlarms

[+] Click to show Licensed organisations

## Check Your Details

The system will periodically check with you for certain details. We understand this can be an annoyance in a busy day, but hopefully a quick check is all that is needed. **Bold fields** are important for both governance and financial reasons and we hope that you will be able to complete them so that we can help you stay compliant.

**Organisation Name:** Community Pharmacy Humber

**Address:** Unit 3  
Albion House  
Albion Lane  
Willerby  
Hull  
HU10 6TS

If any of the above information is not correct, you should [contact the helpdesk](#) who can amend this if needed.

### Vital Information

**Management Email:**

**Secure Email:**

E.g. an NHS.NET email address in case we need to query sensitive details

**Telephone Number:**

### Data Protection Officer Information

**Contact Telephone:**

Data Protection Officer telephone number

**Contact Email:**

This is the email address we will use to communicate with your Data Protection Officer.

[For ICO Guidelines click here.](#)

### GDPR Information

**Contact Email:**

This is the email address we will use to communicate with your main GDPR contact.

Save details

# Medicines Use Review (MUR)

National contract for Community Pharmacy-Advanced Services

Review of a patient's medicines to ensure they understand how to use their medicines and why they should take them.

70% of MURs done should be within MUR target groups

- **High risk medicines** (Diuretics, NSAIDS, Anticoagulants and Antiplatelets)
- **Respiratory** (taking 2 or more medicines including 1 for Asthma and COPD)
- **Post-discharge** (taking 2 or more medicines within 8 weeks of discharge and had medicines changed in hospital)
- **Cardiovascular Risk** (taking 4 or more drugs including cardiovascular, thyroid or diabetes)

## New Medicine Service (NMS)

National contract for Community Pharmacy -Advanced Services

- Available to patients who are newly prescribed a medicine for certain long term conditions.
- First time the patient presents with prescription for new medication in Community pharmacy **or patient has been referred by a healthcare professional at the hospital that has already dispensed the new medicine (inpatient or outpatient).**
- Improves medicines adherence by 10% \*

\*2017 University College London and Universities of Nottingham and Manchester



## NMS Condition/therapy a



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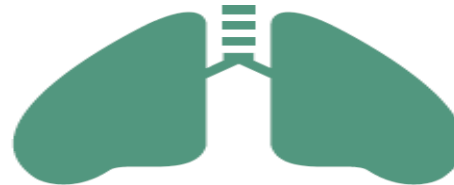
- Hypertension
- Antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy
- Asthma or COPD
- Type 2 diabetes

The patient has been newly prescribed the medicine for **hypertension**



The patient has been newly prescribed the medicine as **antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy**

The patient has been newly prescribed the medicine for **asthma or COPD**



The patient has been newly prescribed the medicine for **Type 2 diabetes**





# NMS Outline Service Spec

## Three Stage Process

- Patient Engagement (Day 0)
- Intervention (approx day 14)
- Follow up (approx day 28)

Opportunity to provide healthy living advice at each stage.

## New Medicine Service - Interview Schedule

Intervention
1. Have you had the chance to start taking your new medicine yet?
2. How are you getting on with it?
3. Are you having any problems with your new medicine, or concerns about taking it?
4. Do you think it is working? (Prompt: is this different from what you were expecting?)
5. Do you think you are getting any side effects or unexpected effects?
6. People often miss taking doses of their medicines, for a wide range of reasons. Have you missed any doses of your new medicine, or changed when you take it? (Prompt: when did you last miss a dose?)
7. Do you have anything else you would like to know about your new medicine or is there anything you would like me to go over again?
Follow up
1. How have you been getting on with your new medicine since we last spoke? (Prompt: are you still taking it?)
2. Last time we spoke, you mentioned a few issues you'd been having with your new medicine. Shall we go through each of these and see how you're

## RiO Scoring

A scale used to determine the likelihood of readmission prevention based on the RiO healthcare management system (if intervention hadn't taken place)

- RiO 1 – no likelihood of re-admission
- RiO 2 – possible re-admission e.g. forgetting to use inhalers and poor technique
- RiO 3 – likely readmission if pharmacist had not intervened.



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# Breaking Down Barriers

## Challenges and Successes



12 June 2019

Khalida Rahman  
Programme Manager





# Activity: Experiences



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- What is your experience of using RefertoPharmacy?
- What has gone well?
- Why did it go well?
- What challenges have you encountered?
- How have you overcome these?
- What might have helped at the time?
- What might you do differently next time?
- How can we work together overcome the barriers?





# Summary of feedback from audience



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# Feedback from Calderdale and Huddersfield



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- A faster, more secure route to refer our patients (GDPR compliant)
- Time saving across the department
- Helps to identify problems such as delays in the discharge system.
- Better information about changes to medication out to our colleagues in community pharmacy
- Helping to reduce readmissions and visits to the accident and emergency department.
- Identifies errors made between hospital and pharmacies to aid learning of staff where themes have been identified.

Read the case study [here](#)



# Feedback from Community Pharmacists across West Yorkshire



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90% of community pharmacists state that Refer to Pharmacy has improved the information provided to patients.

90% of community pharmacists state that Refer to Pharmacy has improved their relationship with the patient/customer.

One community pharmacist said “We need to increase numbers to improve patient safety”.







# Case studies



# Immediate Discharge Letter(IDL)

- Key headings:
  - Presenting complaint/reason for admission
  - Diagnosis at discharge
  - Secondary diagnosis – past medical history
  - Significant operations/procedures and treatments
  - Relevant results – blood results, chest x-ray, ECHO report
  - Actions to be completed by GP – U&E's in 1 week
  - Actions to be completed by the secondary care provider – o/p appointment
  - Clinical narrative/findings – happened, outcome??
  - Allergies , active alerts, AKI, RESPECT, weight

# Immediate Discharge Letter(IDL)

Key headings:

Prescription medications listed on different sections for:

- Newly Prescribed/ medication – started during admission
- Modified Prescription/medication – dose, frequency, form changed
- Stopped Medication – discontinued, withheld and GP to re-start
- Unchanged Medication – pre-admission
- Clinically verified – this will contain the pharmacists name or initials

# Cardiology referrals

- Main clinical conditions and referrals

- ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)
- Non ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)
- Atrial fibrillation
- Heart failure
- Post coronary artery bypass graft (CAGB)
- Valve replacements

- Discuss in this session

- ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)
- Non ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)
- Anticoagulation with DOAC's



## STEMI/NSTEMI – standard drug regimes

- 4 types of medication
  - Dual antiplatelet therapy
  - ACE-Inhibitors
  - Beta-blockers
  - Statins
  - GTN spray
- Shown to reduce cardiovascular risk in post-MI patients
- These benefits are in addition to risk factor management:
  - Diet
  - Lifestyle – stopping smoking, reduced alcohol intake
  - Exercise



## STEMI/NSTEMI – standard drug regimes

Long term management and secondary prevention

- **Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT)**
  - Aspirin 75mg od – lifelong
  - Ticagrelor 90mg bd for 12 months
  - clopidogrel or prasugrel may be used where ticagrelor is not tolerated due to side-effects of shortness of breath, bradycardia and long pauses on ECG
- Premature discontinuation of antiplatelet therapy can result in **stent thrombosis with high mortality.**
- DAPT is for 12 months after PCI with stent intervention
  - Early discontinuation would only be recommended via cardiology interventionists i.e. bleeding complications or elective surgery

## STEMI/NSTEMI – standard drug regimes

### • **ACE- Inhibitor**

- ramipril od or bd, enalapril bd in LV dysfunction
- initiated within first 24 hours
- general start low-dose and titrated to target dose if tolerated
- Titration with in outpatients or by GP
- Evidence shows reduces mortality and morbidity post MI in patients with LV dysfunction and no LV dysfunction
- **ARB – acceptable alternative in side-effects to ACEI (cough)**

### • **Beta-blocker**

- bisoprolol od or bd and timolol bd, Carvedilol bd in LV dysfunction
- Try in patients with asthma/COPD and monitor for shortness of breath
- Evidence shown to reduce all cause mortality post MI regardless of LV function



## STEMI/NSTEMI – standard drug regimes

- **Statin therapy – high intensity post MI**
  - Atorvastatin 80mg od
  - All post- MI patients appear to benefit regardless of lipid levels
  - Monitor for side-effects of muscle aches and pains and sleep disturbance
  - Optimal target levels – Total cholesterol  $\leq 4$ mmol/L and LDL-c  $\leq 2$  mmol/L
- **Aldosterone antagonist**
  - Selective patients post MI ECHO shows moderate to severe LV dysfunction(LVEF $\leq 40\%$ )
  - Initiated Eplerenone 25mg od
  - Evidence shows reduces all-cause mortality in patients LV dysfunction post MI
- **Glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) spray /tablets – ACS protocol for discharge in all post-MI patients**

# STEMI/NSTEMI – TRIPLE THERAPY

- **Triple therapy – 2 antiplatelets + anticoagulant therapy**
- STEMI/NSTEMI complicated by further diagnosis of:
  - atrial fibrillation
- Alters the duration of dual antiplatelet therapy
  - Ticagrelor is switched to clopidogrel (reduced bleeding risk)
- Most common combination:
  - Aspirin 75mg od for ONE month + clopidogrel lifelong + DOAC lifelong
  - Aspirin 75mg od for ONE month + clopidogrel for 12 months + DOAC lifelong
  - Aspirin 75mg od for ONE month + clopidogrel + warfarin
- Initiated under the advice of the cardiology interventionist
  - Durations documented on IDL, GP receives copy of the Cath lab report/plan

## Key Counselling points

- **Dual antiplatelet therapy**

- Adherence really important - premature discontinuation can results in stent thrombosis with high mortality
- Safety netting for bleeding risk - warning signs i.e bleeding gums, excessive bruising, blood in urine, blood in phlegm

- **ACE- Inhibitor**

- Dose is likely to be increased by your GP or consultant
- General side-effects - dry cough

- **Beta-blocker**

- Dose is likely to be increased by your GP or consultant
- General side-effects – fatigue, sleep disturbance

## Key Counselling points

- **Statin therapy**

- Bad press – positive aspects of statins
- Monitor for side-effects of muscle aches and pains and sleep disturbance
- Blood tests at 3 months
- Lipid soluble/water soluble statins – try alternative side-effects
- Optimal target levels – Total cholesterol  $\leq 4\text{mmol/L}$  and LDL-c  $\leq 2\text{ mmol/L}$ , non-HDL-c  $\leq 2$

- **GTN spray – 10 minute rule – experiencing chest pain (angina), chest ache, or chest discomfort:**

- Stop what you are doing and **sit down** and rest
- If pain persists, use 1 spray under your tongue and wait 5 minutes
- If pain still present, use another spray and wait 5 minutes
- If pain is still present, **Ring 999 and unlock door**
- Monitor during consultation how often a patient is using their spray

# Anticoagulation Update

Why are DOACS so appealing compared to warfarin

Warfarin is HIGH MAINTENANCE	DOACS are MORE PREDICTABLE
VITAMIN K	NOT IMPACTED BY DIETARY VITAMIN K
NARROW THERAPEUTIC INDEX	MORE CONSISTENT PHARMACOKINETICS
MANY DRUG INTERACTIONS	FEWER DRUG INTERACTIONS
DELAY PHARMACODYNAMICS ONSET	RELATIVELY QUICK ONSET OF ACTION
	NOT ALL REQUIRE HEPARIN ADMINISTRATION PRIOR TO USE FOR VTE

## Current oral anticoagulant indications

Anticoagulants	VTE PREVENTION	VTE TREATMENT PE/DVT	NON-VALVULAR AF	MECHANICAL HEAT VALVE
Apixaban (Eliquis®)	✓ (hip +knee)	✓	✓	No
Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)	✓ (hip +knee)	✓	✓	No
Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)	✓ (hip +knee)	✓	✓	No
Edoxaban (Lixiana)	✓ (hip +knee)	✓	✓	No
Warfarin	✓ (hip +knee)	✓	✓	✓



# PRESCRIBING considerations with DOACs

- Renal function
  - Age
  - Weight
  - Drug Interactions
- FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN  
SELECTING THE  
**DOSE** and **PREPARATION**
- Impact on adherence factors
  - General patient care
    - Concurrent antiplatelet agents
    - Oncology/or thrombophilia patients
    - Decreased patient contact – due to removing INR monitoring visit

# Apixaban

Treatment Indication		Dosing Schedule	Duration
Treatment of DVT or PE		10mg BD for the first 7 days Followed by 5mg BD for 6 months*	
Prevention of recurrent DVT and/or PE <b>following completion of 6 months of treatment</b> for DVT or PE		2.5mg BD	Lifelong
Prevention of Stroke and systemic embolism in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation	Normal renal function	5mg BD	Lifelong
	CrCl=15-29ml/min or <b>any 2 of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age &gt;80 years</li> <li>Weight &lt;61kg</li> <li>Serum Creatinine &gt;133micromol/L</li> </ul>	2.5mg BD	Lifelong
Prevention of VTE following elective hip and knee surgery	Hip replacement	2.5mg BD	32-38 days
	Knee replacement	2.5mg BD	10-14 days

Table 1. Apixaban Dosing Schedules based upon indication<sup>2,3</sup>

\*can be for a shortened duration of 3 months – clinical decision to be made based on if DVT/PE was provoked and patients individual risk factors

Note: Apixaban is contraindicated if CrCL<15ml/min



Strengths Available : 2.5mg, 5mg<sup>2</sup>

# Rivaroxaban

Treatment Indication		Dosing Schedule		Duration
Treatment of DVT or PE		15mg BD for the first 21 days Followed by 20mg OD for 6 months*		
Following 21 day loading period if CrCl = 15 - 49ml/min reduce dose		15mg OD		
Prevention of recurrent DVT and/or PE <b>following completion of 6 months of treatment</b> for DVT or PE		10mg OD**		Lifelong
Prevention of Stroke and systemic embolism in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation	Normal renal function	20mg OD		Lifelong
	CrCl=15-49ml/min	15mg OD		Lifelong
Prevention of VTE following elective hip and knee surgery	Hip replacement	10mg OD		35 days
	Knee replacement	10mg OD		14 days

Table 2. Rivaroxaban Dosing Schedules based upon indication<sup>3,4</sup>

\*can be for a shortened duration of 3 months – clinical decision to be made based on if DVT/PE was provoked and patients individual risk factors

\*\*Long term prevention dose can be increased to 20mg OD if patient is at high risk of recurrence

Note: Rivaroxaban is contraindicated if CrCl<15ml/min

2.5mg Dose is available for use in ACS patients. Not currently used at HEY.



Strengths Available : 2.5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 20mg<sup>2</sup>

## Edoxaban



Strengths Available : 30mg, 60mg<sup>3</sup>

Treatment Indication		Dosing Schedule	Duration
Treatment of DVT or PE		60mg OD following 5 days IV anticoagulation	6 months
Prevention of recurrent DVT and/or PE <b><u>following completion of 6 months of treatment</u></b> for DVT or PE		60mg OD	Lifelong
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CrCl = 15-50ml/min</li> <li>Low body weight &lt;60kg</li> <li>Concomitant use of potent P-gp inhibitors; such as ciclosporin, dronederone, erythromycin or ketoconazole</li> </ul>		30mg OD	Lifelong
Prevention of Stroke and systemic embolism in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation	Normal renal function	60mg OD	Lifelong
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CrCl = 15-50ml/min</li> <li>Low body weight &lt;60kg</li> <li>Concomitant use of potent P-gp inhibitors; such as ciclosporin, dronederone, erythromycin or ketoconazole</li> </ul>	30mg OD	Lifelong

Table 4. Edoxaban Dosing Schedules based upon indication<sup>3,6</sup>

Note: Dabigatran is contraindicated if CrCl<15ml/min



# Dabigatran



Strengths Available : 75mg, 110mg, 150mg<sup>2</sup>

Treatment Indication		Dosing Schedule	Duration
Treatment of DVT or PE		150mg BD* following 5 days IV anticoagulation	6 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CrCl=15-29ml/min</li> <li>Age &gt;80 years</li> <li>Concomitant Verapamil</li> </ul>		110mg BD following 5 days IV anticoagulation	6 months
Prevention of recurrent DVT and/or PE <b>following completion of 6 months of treatment</b> for DVT or PE		150mg OD*	Lifelong
Prevention of Stroke and systemic embolism in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation	Normal renal function	150mg (2x75mg) BD	Lifelong
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CrCl=30-50ml/min</li> <li>Age &gt;80 years</li> <li>Concomitant Verapamil</li> </ul>	110mg BD	Lifelong
Prevention of VTE following elective hip and knee surgery	Hip replacement	110mg 1-4 hours post-op then 220mg (2x110mg) OD thereafter**	28-35 days
	Knee replacement		10 days

Table 3. Dabigatran Dosing Schedules based upon indication<sup>3,5</sup>

\*Reduce dose to 110mg BD if aged over 80 years or concomitant Verapamil or Amiodarone

\*\*Reduce dose to 150mg if patient is aged over 75 years, concomitant Verapamil or Amiodarone or CrCl=30-50ml/min

Note: Dabigatran is contraindicated if CrCl<30ml/min

**As Dabigatran 150mg capsules are only licensed for use in SpAF 2x75mg capsules are to be used in orthopedic cases and for reduced dosing in DVT/PE when required**

# Side Effects of DOACS

- Common side-effects
  - Indigestion, nausea and stomach pains
- Patients should be aware of the following and seek medical advice:
- Severe or spontaneous bruising or unusual headaches
- Epistaxis (Prolonged nose bleeds more than 10 minutes)
- Haematuria (Red or dark brown urine – Blood in urine)
- Haemoptysis (Coughing up blood or coffee ground like substance)
- Bleeding Gums
- Haematemesis (Vomiting blood)
- Malena (Red or black tarry stools)
- Abnormal heavy periods in women or unexpected vaginal bleeding<sup>9</sup>



# DOAC Drug Interactions

- Drug interactions that can:
  - Reduce or increase DOAC blood concentrations
  - Reduces concentration – decreases treatment efficacy and stroke prevention is reduced
  - Increase concentration – increases patients risk of bleeding
- Pharmacist and doctors consider the patients current medications history
  - Prescribed medication
  - Bought over the counter medications
- Food and alcohol
  - Not affected by vitamin K – foods containing this do not need to be regulated
  - Alcohol intake should be moderate – increased alcohol use increases gastric acid and irritation of the gastric mucosa – potential GI bleed

## ANTICOAGULANT COMPARISON: DRUG INTERACTIONS

	Dabigatran	Rivaroxaban	Apixaban	Edoxaban
Ketoconazole	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid
Clarithromycin	No adjustment	Precaution	Avoid	Avoid
Erythromycin	Precaution	Precaution	Precaution	Avoid
Fluconazole	Avoid	Precaution	Avoid	Avoid
Rifampin	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid	Safe
NSAID/ ASA	Caution	Caution	Caution	Caution
Clopidogrel – antiplatelets	Caution	Caution	Caution	Caution
Diltiazem	Unknown	Caution	Caution	Unknown
Verapamil	Avoid	Caution	Caution	Avoid
Heparin/ ticagrelor	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid

Mookadam M, et al. Novel anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation: a primer for the primary physician J Am Board Fam Med 2015; 28(4): 510-22.

# Key counselling points

- Important counselling points to be covered:
  1. Indications and how the DOAC works and duration of treatment
  2. Importance of compliance i.e. taking regularly
    - Short half lives and short duration of action
    - Do not omit doses
    - No regular blood tests
    - Importance of with or without food
  3. Side effects and when to seek medical attention
    - Increased risk of bleeding
    - Pain, swelling or discomfort, unusual headaches, dizziness
    - Unusual bruising, nose bleeds, bleeding gums or cuts that take a long time to stop
    - Cut occurs, shaving or cooking – firm pressure should be applied to the site for at least 5 minutes
    - Seek medical attention if
      - injury yourself or hit your head
      - Unable to stop the bleeding
      - Cough up or vomit blood

4. Inform healthcare professionals or pharmacist before taking any other medications

- Carry your relevant DOAC alert card with you at ALL times

5. Inform healthcare professionals before any surgical or invasive procedure

- Includes hospital or dental admissions

Each brand includes its own alert card

Within HEY we use a trust approved DOAC alert card for all brands

Branded cards and booklets are available in different languages

On discharge patient should receive:

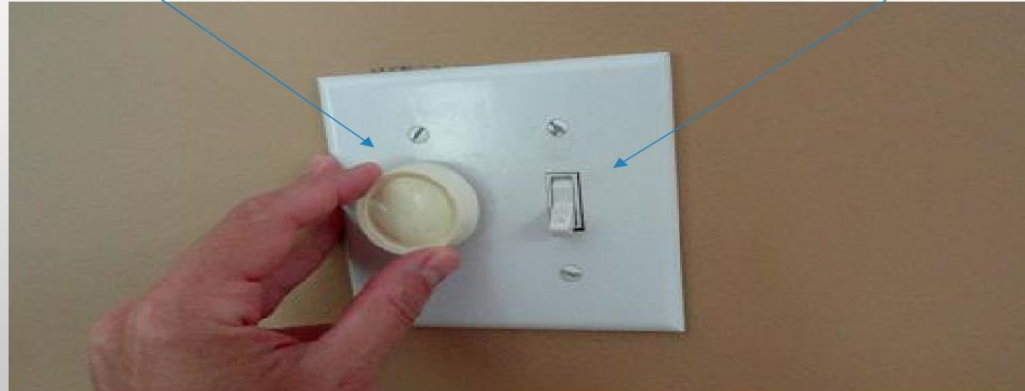
- DOAC booklet and alert card
- DOAC from either a pharmacist, pharmacy technician or nursing staff
- IDL should state serum creatinine and creatinine clearance



## IMPACT OF A MISSED DOSE

WARFARIN

NOAC



## Missed Doses – critical medication

- DOACs have shorter half lives (<24 hours) than warfarin (~37 hours) and therefore missed doses put patients at risk due to **insufficient anticoagulation**
- For ONCE daily DOACs (i.e. **rivaroxaban** and **edoxaban**) doses need to be **within 12 hours of scheduled time**; if any later than this omit the forgotten dose and continue with next dose at scheduled time
- For TWICE daily DOACs (i.e. **apixaban** and **dabigatran**) doses need to be **within 6 hours of scheduled time**; if any later than this omit the forgotten dose and continue with next dose at scheduled time
- Important to counsel patients on this; aided by info in their patient support booklet



## Additional information

	Apixaban	Rivaroxaban	Dabigatran	Edoxaban
+/- Food	Take with water With or without food	With food	With water Preferably with food	With or without food
Compliance Aid	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Crushable?	Yes	Yes	No – Swallow whole	Yes

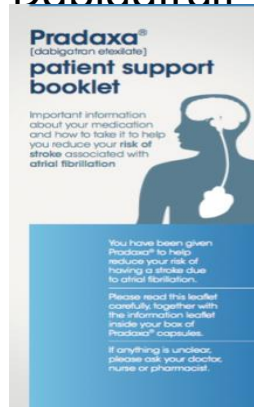
- Remember to counsel patients to always inform other healthcare professionals you are taking blood thinning medication i.e. your dentist

AF

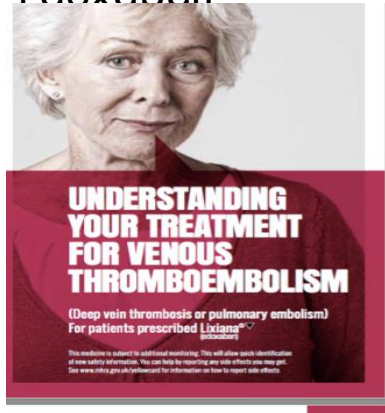
# Patient Information Booklets

DVT/PE

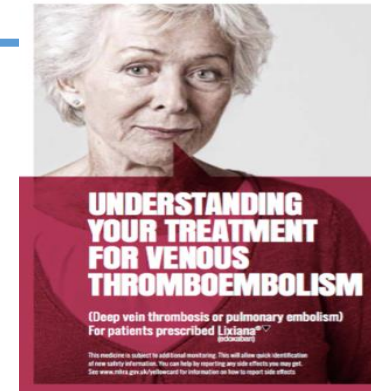
Dabigatran



Edoxaban



Edoxaban

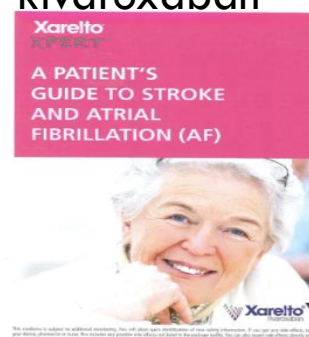


ONLY AF INFO  
BOOKLET  
AVAILABLE FOR  
DABIGATRAN?

Apixaban



Rivaroxaban

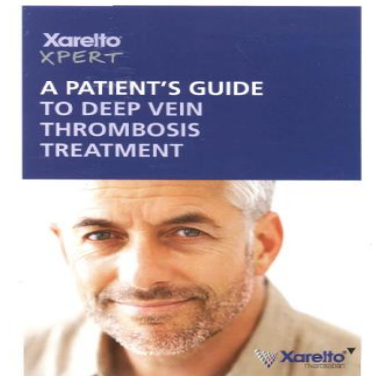


- Different for each indication!  
Be careful as look similar
- English stocked in pharmacy and on wards

Apixaban



Rivaroxaban



- Available to download in different languages from manufacturers websites!
- Good aid when counselling patients

# Questions

## Next Steps

- Identifying champions
- Analyse data
- Survey of CPH
- Academic study
- Case studies
- Region-wide TCAM steering group

# Reflections



How can you (as an individual, team, organisation) help to ensure that Refer to Pharmacy is successful in Hull and Humber?