

Patient and Public Forum for Medicines

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Background

NHS Tayside Patient and Public Forum for Medicines (PPFM) is an expert group of patient and public members from Dundee, Perth and Kinross and Angus since June 2014. The members of PPFM are a mixture of representatives from NHS Tayside Patient and Public Network who have an interest in medicines and local patient interest groups, eg MS Society and National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society.

Methods

- A rolling programme of monthly educational presentations at each meeting has enhanced each of the members confidence as a patient and public advocates. The role and remit is to work in partnership with NHS staff to review, give feedback and co-produce medicines related developments across NHS Tayside.

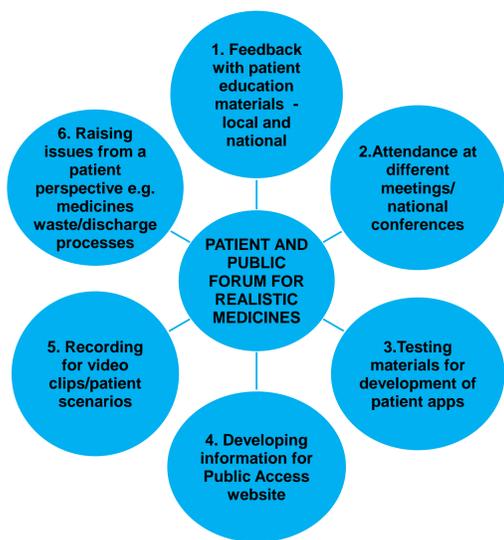
- PPFM is a sub-group of the Area Drug and Therapeutic Committee (ADTC) and is Chaired by Arlene Coulson and Marion Manzie. This group provides support for Fran Benison and Sue Cole who are public representatives on the ADTC. Their role is to contribute to medicine governance across NHS Tayside.

- PPFM website (Reference below) contains information for the public about the role and remit of the group with all the educational materials. Advertisement for patient and public network members of PPFM group is co-ordinated by Audrey Lindsay, Public Involvement Co-ordinator.

Results

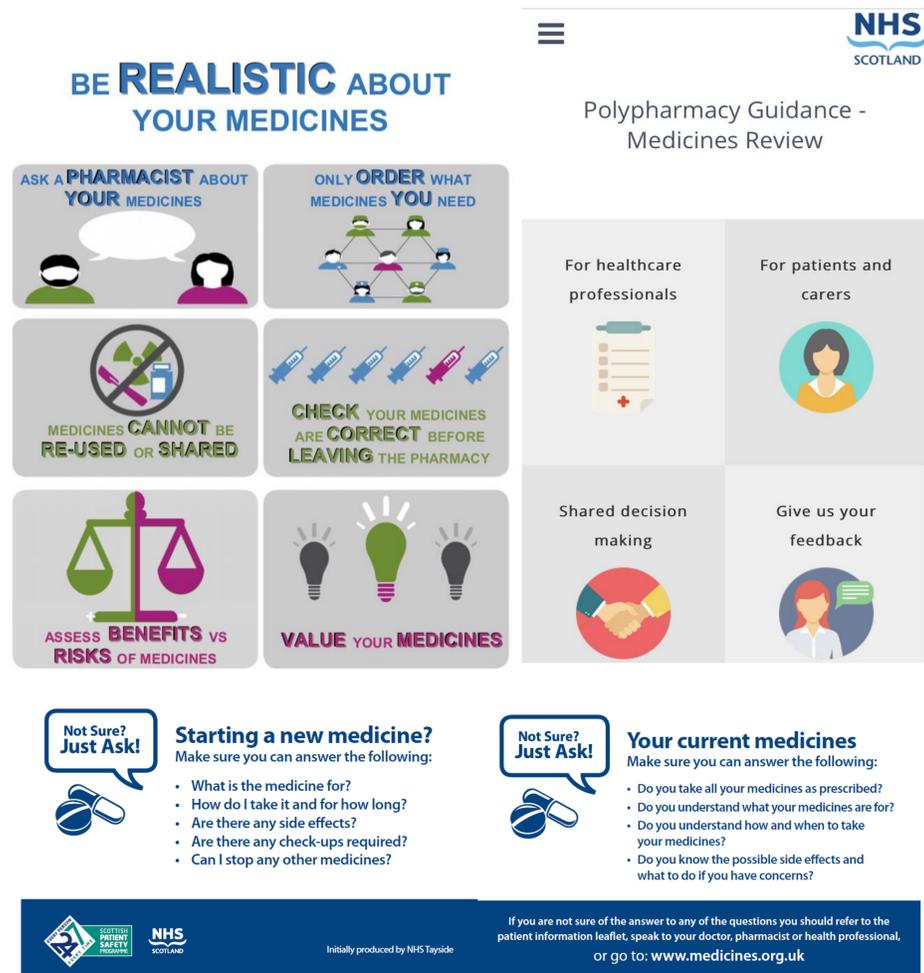
- There has been a number of achievements resulting in co-production of medicines related initiatives to promote patient empowerment, shared decision making and self management.
- The examples below are materials developed by PPFM at a local and national level.

Process



"Being an active person on the Patient & Public Forum for Medicines during the last 4 years has been an amazing journey. Constantly learning, being involved in local medicines campaigns and medicines safety national conferences, feeling valued, listened to and fully appreciated. It has completely altered the way I see just how the NHS works, and has highlighted to me the key difficulties and obstacles that lay ahead in the future of the NHS. This is where I know I can help, as I have found my voice as a realistic and natural communicator between the public and the NHS."

By Fran Benison



BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR MEDICINES

- ASK A PHARMACIST ABOUT YOUR MEDICINES
- ONLY ORDER WHAT MEDICINES YOU NEED
- MEDICINES CANNOT BE RE-USED OR SHARED
- CHECK YOUR MEDICINES ARE CORRECT BEFORE LEAVING THE PHARMACY
- ASSESS BENEFITS VS RISKS OF MEDICINES
- VALUE YOUR MEDICINES

Polypharmacy Guidance - Medicines Review

- For healthcare professionals
- For patients and carers
- Shared decision making
- Give us your feedback

Not Sure? Just Ask!

Starting a new medicine?
Make sure you can answer the following:

- What is the medicine for?
- How do I take it and for how long?
- Are there any side effects?
- Are there any check-ups required?
- Can I stop any other medicines?

Not Sure? Just Ask!

Your current medicines
Make sure you can answer the following:

- Do you take all your medicines as prescribed?
- Do you understand what your medicines are for?
- Do you understand how and when to take your medicines?
- Do you know the possible side effects and what to do if you have concerns?

Initially produced by NHS Tayside

If you are not sure of the answer to any of the questions you should refer to the patient information leaflet, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or health professional, or go to: www.medicines.org.uk

Conclusion

Patient and Public Forum for Medicines:

- are committed to working in partnership with the public to co-produce medicines related initiatives.
- have developed close links with Realistic Medicine Strategy.
- actively communicate key medicine messages to the public on waste, variation and harm.
- develop and promote patient decision making tools which highlight the benefits and risks of medicines to enable people to make informed choices and participate in shared decision making.

Next Steps

- PPFM are looking for new members to join the group.
- Our goal is to upskill the general public to be confident in shared decision making about their medicines.
- For anyone interested in joining the group see contact details below.

