

## Enhancing medicines optimisation and best practice with FDB OptimiseRx<sup>®</sup>



As an alternative to cutting local prescribing spend, NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) decided to focus on finding a cost effective solution for medicines optimisation and best practice prescribing of high quality medicines.

Previous medicines management implementations had not been able to promote clinically effective patient-specific prescribing. To achieve this, the CCG became one of the first in the UK to deploy FDB OptimiseRx.

OptimiseRx combines comprehensive drug knowledge and detailed patient information to help meet the many challenges facing primary care commissioners and clinicians, such as managing costs, reducing variation and improving safety.

The Warrington Medicines Management team and clinicians worked closely with FDB to ensure that the solution met local requirements. In addition, the CCG was keen to review the use of RAG or Traffic Light drugs across the health community and to understand the circumstances in which use of Red classified drugs (prescribe in secondary care only) or Black classified drugs (not to be prescribed within the CCG) were taking place.

### How it works

In use within the health community since August 2013, OptimiseRx is now deployed across 19 SystemOne Practices (the majority of Practices in the CCG).

Danuta Kay, Practice Pharmacist at Warrington CCG reports: "OptimiseRx suggests alternative treatments in line with national guidance and these are pre-filtered to ensure that they are within our local formulary and appropriate for the patient, in line with their electronic medical record. Messages can be switched on or off for certain types of patients e.g. those with certain conditions, test results or concurrent medications, meaning that they are only presented when they are applicable. The system is intelligent and this cuts down the number of times it alerts the clinicians."

### Financial Results



**£98,000**  
savings in one quarter

Upon full deployment of OptimiseRx to all SystemOne GP practices in Warrington, the CCG reported savings of more than £98,000 in one quarter.



**£393,504**  
annualised savings forecast

Using the in-built reporting tools within OptimiseRx that take into account current performance, the CCG is forecasting an annualised saving of £393,504.



“We are amazed with the savings we have made using OptimiseRx, which are far superior to our old system. With OptimiseRx we are seeing a return on investment of more than 6:1. We are also starting to introduce the Medicines Usage Review functionality, which is providing real clinical benefits to our patients by automatically checking current medications for safer, more clinically appropriate or cheaper alternatives. Our GPs are really interested in this functionality as it shows you best practice recommendations and is patient specific; the feedback from our GPs using this has been really positive.”

**DANUTA KAY** Practice Pharmacist, NHS Warrington CCG

The Medicines Management team at the CCG track local prescribing performance through the OptimiseRx web-based reporting portal. The reporting functionality monitors the value of messages that are presented to clinicians and the savings they generate. They combine use of the reports with the OptimiseRx profile management tools to continually refine the profile and align it with local objectives, and plan to extend this further in order to understand how OptimiseRx is driving up evidence-based prescribing in the future.

Dr Catherine Doyle, Warrington CCG, says: **“OptimiseRx offers unique reports that help us to understand more about the use of certain medications, and support clinicians by providing them with links to the evidence as to why certain drugs are not recommended for prescribing in Warrington CCG.”**

### Support and engagement

The development and delivery of OptimiseRx continues to be truly collaborative, with input from clinical and informatics professionals at FDB, Medicines Management and Prescribing GPs across CCGs.

Danuta Kay explains: “It has been great working with the FDB team, they have been very supportive and very quick to respond to any queries and we are delighted with the results.”



[www.warringtonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.warringtonccg.nhs.uk)



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