Progress to date

Hospital and Community pharmacists across the Northern LCG area have been recruited, with the APBI providing training for the pharmacists involved. The clinical study has started with patients who are currently being discharged from Antrim hospital. Queen’s University will evaluate the study.

Next Steps

Once the evaluation is completed the ICP will look to expand the study within the Northern area. The frail/elderly multidisciplinary group is setting up a sub group to map hospital patient discharge involving all health professionals to ensure seamless care for the patient. This would form part of the patient’s re-enablement to allow them to remain safely at home. Better communication and involvement of the community pharmacy with hospital pharmacy and GP surgery will ensure coordination between all healthcare providers involved in the patient's transition to primary care. This will then lead to multidisciplinary support for long term management of the person within their own community.

Project Overview

Medicine related problems are frequently encountered by patients with multiple morbidities and poly-pharmacy in the period immediately after discharge. Post-discharge support is usually initiated by hospital based health professionals but may not be followed into the long term management of the patient in their community. This project will evaluate patient outcomes after either adding a post-discharge telephone follow-up component to the IMM service or after having a more comprehensive follow-up of patients through a follow-on medicines management programme delivered by the patient’s community pharmacist.

Potential outcomes

It is anticipated that this service will lead to better medicines management for patients post discharge and that this in turn will lead to reduced hospitalisation rates. Such an outcome, due to the high expense associated with hospitalisation, is also likely to be significantly cost-effective and be highly acceptable and satisfactory to patients since they will be able to remain at home rather than requiring further hospital care. It is anticipated that if the findings are positive, this quality improvement initiative would be further investigated.

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