CHIPPS: Care Homes Independent Pharmacist Prescribing Service: Development and delivery of a cluster randomised controlled trial to determine both its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

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BACKGROUND:
Research shows that almost 70% of care home residents experience at least one medication error on any given day.

Three recent reports and NICE guidance suggest that prescribing, monitoring and administration of medicines in care homes could be significantly improved, thus increasing residents’ quantity of life and improving use of NHS resources and

Research has identified the need for one person to assume overall responsibility for the management of medicines within each care home. We propose that this role could be undertaken by a pharmacist independent prescriber (PIP) who primarily assumes responsibility for the authorisation of repeat medicines.

OBJECTIVES:
• Prepare, refine and test the feasibility of a new model of care
• Evaluate and identify appropriate outcome measures
• Develop and optimise a PIP training package to enhance intervention effectiveness/ensure fidelity
• Perform a definitive RCT with internal pilot to determine the intervention’s effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

METHOD:
Programme of 6 work packages (WP), over five years

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 (May 15 – April 16)</th>
<th>WP1 Service specification development</th>
<th>WP2 Identification of outcome measures</th>
<th>WP3 Economic modelling</th>
<th>WP4 Training package</th>
<th>WP5 Feasibility study</th>
<th>WP6 Definitive study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 (May 16 – April 17)</td>
<td>WP1WP2WP3WP4WP5WP6</td>
<td>WP3WP4WP5</td>
<td>WP3WP4WP5WP6</td>
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<td>Year 3 (May 17 – April 18)</td>
<td>WP1WP2WP3WP4WP5WP6</td>
<td>WP3WP4WP5WP6</td>
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<td>Year 4 (May 18 – April 19)</td>
<td>WP1WP2WP3WP4WP5WP6</td>
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<td>Year 5 (May 19 – April 20)</td>
<td>WP1WP2WP3WP4WP5WP6</td>
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WP1 (months 1-12)
• Phase 1: Literature update
• Phase 2: Stakeholder focus groups/interviews for views of proposed service and delivery
• Phase 3: Stakeholder panel to consider information gathered from phases 1 & 2

WP2 (months 1-12)
• Evaluate existing outcome measures, selecting most appropriate to measure intervention impact

WP3 (months 13-60)
• Identify costs of intervention and develop the tools necessary for effective capture

WP4 (months 13-36)
• Design, test and refine the PIP training package using multi-professional focus groups

WP5 (months 13-30)
• Feasibility study to test the service specification and research processes
• 40-60 residents in 4 care homes with 1 PIP (per site) over 3 months

WP6 (months 31-60)
• Cluster RCT (with 3 month internal pilot)
• 900 residents in 90 care homes and 6 PIPs (per site) over 6 months

References
• Aldred D, homes. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013(2)
• Managing medicines in care homes, NICE guidelines, Published date: March 2014
• CHIPPS TEAM: UEA: David Wright, PI; Richard Holland, PI; James Dickson-Ford, Fiona Poland, Garry Barton, David Turner, Nigel Norris, Ann Blyth, Viv Maskrey, Lee Shepstone, Anthony Arthur. David Aldred, University of Leeds; Carmel Hughes, Queens University Belfast; Christine Bond & Phil Mire, Aberdeen University; Arnold Zermendy, Consultant; Ann-Marie Sewart, Norwich CTU; Christine Handford & Kate Massey, PIP; Helen Hill, Consultant

This poster presents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) under its Programme Grants for Applied Research Programme (Grant Reference Number RP-PG-0613-30007). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.