



EMOP: Connecting hospital and community pharmacies to deliver safer care

Research estimates that up to one in five prescriptions ends in a patient being given the wrong drug – equivalent to 237 million errors a year.

Eastern AHSN is supporting the improvement of medication safety via the Electronic Medicines Optimisation Pathway programme (EMOP) in the region, using the PharmOutcomes platform.

EMOP is a new, more efficient way for hospital pharmacy teams to send updated medication discharge information details (TTOs) electronically to a patient's

community pharmacist, so they can get prompt advice about any prescription changes.

Community pharmacists in Essex, Hertfordshire and Suffolk are already using EMOP, supporting five regional trusts that are live:

- Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
- Basildon & Thurrock University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
- East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust;
- West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust;
- The Princess Alexandra NHS Trust

More trusts are due to go live in the coming weeks and months.

EMOP is making a positive difference for patients, as the example below highlights. It offers community pharmacists a chance to use their clinical skills and to be an integral part of the patient pathway. It also enables them to have a closer professional relationship with their patients and to plan their workload better when hospital patients are discharged. As we continue the EMOP rollout, we expect to hear more stories of improved patient safety.

So what happens next?

Your LPC will be in contact with you when your local trust goes live and support you in ensuring you are ready for EMOP. If you get a referral before your local trust is live, or require more details, please contact your LPC or visit their website.

How the programme is making a difference

Masih Kunduzi is a Pharmacist Manager in Bury St Edmunds. He intervened when he spotted a patient who was on too high a dosage of morphine after being discharged from hospital. He notified the GP of the medication change and a new prescription was issued immediately.