

Welcome to the March 2022 CPWY Committee Blog!

Well done to those contractors that have managed to complete some or all of the domains in this year's Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). This year feels particularly challenging with all of the other workforce, capacity, financial and COVID-19 challenges we are facing as a sector.

Do you sometimes think that PQS is 'just a tick box exercise' or have you ever thought 'what's the point in this audit'? Rest assured you are not alone – other pharmacy colleagues have also thought the same.

In this blog I want to share with you some of the fantastic achievements and outcomes of your hard work in previous pharmacy quality schemes and the real differences that the activities make to our patients' lives.

1. Safety

Valproate Audit (2018-19)

- Of the **12,068 patients** / patient representatives who took part in the audit 675 women (5.6%) said they had not been provided with advice and information concerning the potential impact on the unborn child.
- **73.3%** of women said they had discussed their valproate medication and the need for appropriate contraception with a GP / specialist but 17.7% had not and 9.1% were unsure.
- **36.2% reported that they did not have highly effective contraception and 26.5% of these agreed to be referred to the GP by the pharmacist.**

High Risk Meds Audit (2018-19) (Lithium, Methotrexate, Amiodarone and Phenobarbital)

- **40,419** patients were audited.
- For any question where the answer was 'no' or 'don't know' pharmacies provided additional counselling and advice a total of **23,957 times**.

NSAIDS Audits (2018-19 and 19-20)

- **90,000** older patients prescribed oral NSAIDs were reviewed by pharmacies in 2018-19 and **75,000** were reviewed in 2019-20.
- 85% of patients over 65 were co-prescribed a GI agent in 2019-20 compared to 80% in 2018-19.
- NHSBSA data shows further reduction has been since the second audit and a reduction in related hospital admissions.

2. Healthy Living and Prevention

Healthy Living Pharmacy

- Achieving HLP status formed part of PQS between 2017-19.
- **Now every pharmacy in England is a Healthy Living Pharmacy**

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Adult and Childhood Obesity

- In 2020 and 2021 pharmacy colleagues completed PHE All Our Health: training and assessments on Adult and Childhood Obesity.
- Pharmacy colleagues supported patients to measure their BMI and understand the impact on their health.

Oral Health

- In 2019 **74,500** pharmacy colleagues passed CPPE assessment on child oral health.
- Pharmacy colleagues also participated in a public health campaign to support National Smile Month.

Support for Patients with Diabetes

- In 2019 pharmacy colleagues supported diabetic patients to get their foot and eye checks.

3. Patient Experience

Dementia Support

- In 2017 **70,000** pharmacy colleagues became dementia friends.
- In 2019 pharmacies completed a dementia friendly checklist and made changes to pharmacies to become more dementia friendly environments.

Safeguarding

- **20,000** pharmacy professionals have achieved CPPE Level 2 safeguarding status for children and vulnerable adults.

Suicide Training

- In 2020/21 over **72,000** pharmacy colleagues completed Zero Suicide Alliance training and pharmacies developed a suicide prevention action plan.

These are just a few of the amazing PQS related achievements that collectively community pharmacy contractors across England have achieved over the last few years – there are plenty more too!

Your involvement in the scheme has resulted in more patients receiving healthy living advice and support; you have also supported the national medicines safety programme; you have contributed to integration into the wider primary care team, and you have contributed to environmental sustainability.

The key word is 'Quality' and I hope you agree with me that after reading this blog that these quality outcomes you have contributed to are worth celebrating and being proud of.

From CPWY... THANK YOU!

Vicki Roberts

[Committee Member of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire](#)

