Pharmacist, Ravi Sharma
Pharmacist in General Practice

Overview
A team of 48 experienced Pharmacists existing across London who support GP Practices to deliver their new models of care. (48 Practice Pharmacists – 18 Senior Pharmacists & 30 Junior Pharmacists)

This team works in over 50 GP practices, serving a patient population of over 700,000. This team provides training, development and upskilling of pharmacists to take on these extended roles within GP Practices.

This team also support the development of pre-registration trainee placements in general practice in collaboration with HEKSS (CEPN Pharmacy Project)

Challenge
Recognised workforce challenges in primary care are:
- Workforce capacity in general practice, GP near retirement. Lack of nurses in the community, effective use of skill mix
- Increasing demand on primary care services
- Collaboration between general practice and pharmacy to share learning & expertise

Findings
Aim of the work
- Improve patient health outcomes, increase access to health care for patients, improve screening diagnosis, treatment and management of chronic and common ailments, reduce medicine wastage and overuse, reduce A&E admissions and attendances, improve patient safety and care.
- Model of care nominated for HSJ award in Primary Care and General Practice Innovation Award

Pharmacist offer
- Management of chronic conditions - health checks, early screening diagnosis, treatment initiation, monitoring, follow ups and annual review.
- Home visits – particularly regards care of the elderly
- Greater efficiency of repeat prescribing process
- All medicine reviews
- Safer management of patients on high risk medications e.g. MTX and NTI drugs
- Act as a liaison between all healthcare interfaces
- Develop Junior Pharmacist roles with general practice

Outcomes
- Prescribing targets exceeded
- Improved Chronic condition outcomes, particular diabetes outcomes
- Reduced A&E visits
- Mental health care plans
- Reduced GP workload up to 30%-40% per week
- Prescribing errors reduced
- Better integration with Primary and Secondary care

Future
- Established and recognised careers pathways for Clinical Pharmacist,
- NHSE investment in pharmacy pilot
- Sharing working care models
- Inter professional learning for all
- An integrated model between primary and secondary care
- Engage more with commissioners, providers HCPs, patient & voluntary organisations to promote the role of pharmacy

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