Safe Prescribing of Opioids
Overview

Our client required a solution to enable the safe prescribing of strong opioids whilst enabling the NHS to make cost savings. Opioids are increasingly being used to treat persistent pain, however the safety and efficacy of opioids in the long term is uncertain as there is a propensity for these drugs to cause problems of tolerance, dependence and addiction.

The client’s objectives were to:

• Raise the awareness of excessive dosing and concomitant prescribing in strong opioid analgesia
• Highlight cost implications of first line morphine vs. branded generic prescribing.
• Highlight the gaps between CCG formulary and real-time prescribing
• Deliver a strategy to assist clinicians to identify key patient groups

The British Pain Society Guidelines 2010 provided the framework and rationale for the project.

The client also required Oberoi to support the engagement of a pilot CCG.

Solution

Oberoi Consulting developed an audit solution that would enable GPs, Nurses, CCG Pharmacists or practice administration staff to self-audit their patient population.

A complex set of searches identified specific cohorts of patients for review, with the numeric results being used to create easy to use practice reports at baseline and post implementation.

Oberoi Consulting engaged a pilot CCG on behalf of the client - South Staffordshire CCG and it was through their medicines management team that the audit and review solution would be delivered.

A training workshop was developed for the CCG pharmacists to enable them to install and run the pre-created audit, create practice reports and support the clinical reviews at practice level.
Key Results and Outcomes

Impact of Audit Solution to the CCG Pharmacist’s Team

- Saved the pharmacists time trawling data.
- Efficiently identified key patients for review.
- Enabled the CCG to align practice prescribing to CCG formulary.
- Saved prescribing costs as result of prescription reviews.
- Improved safe prescribing of strong opioids through reduced overprescribing.

“Oberoi has been providing the Medicines Management Team of South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG, and previously South Staffordshire PCT and Burton, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT, with clinical audit services and clinical system training for 8 years.

“Oberoi have worked extensively with our own medicines management teams on a numerous occasions.

“This has involved both upskilling of our own teams to improve their auditing skills and delivering various clinical audit programmes in conjunction with our clinical priorities.

“Training manuals and support guides provided by Oberoi were tailored to our specific requirements and have been subsequently used as a source of reference for our teams and our practices.

“The remote telephone support has been excellent.

“Oberoi Consulting are professional, motivated and ahead of their game in what they do; we have worked alongside them in a number of projects and will continue to do so.”

Genine Riley
Head of Medicines Management,
South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG