

02 December 2008

Information Prescriptions National resources being developed

The piloting phase of the information prescriptions programme was completed in January 2008. The evaluation consortium published an **interim report** in November 2007. Since then a **summary of the final report** was published in March 2008 with the full **final report including 10 appendices** that contain details of the supporting evidence gathered being published in August 2008. [All the reports and appendices are available to download](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086889) from the DH website: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086889]

The final conference was held on 19 March - showcasing pilot findings to nearly 300 delegates drawn from a cross section of health and social care organisations. [The conference report](#) is also available through the information prescriptions website.

The information and momentum built through the piloting phase has been used to inform and shape the support being developed nationally. This support is being designed to help organisations consider how best to implement information prescriptions locally to meet the needs of their local communities. There are a number of national developments.

- [Information prescription online resource pack](#)

The online resource pack is designed for use by organisations that are considering how and when they should introduce information prescriptions locally. It is also designed for use by professionals seeking endorsement and buy in from their host organisations, LA and PCT commissioners looking to implement the choice, long term conditions and self care agendas and provide better streamlined, co-ordinated and patient focussed health and social care services. Also project managers tasked with improving patient information delivery and introducing information prescriptions locally.

- [Local infrastructure to support more personalised care through information, choice and care planning](#)

Much of the latest national guidance suggests that a co-ordinated, integrated and multi agency approach is needed at local and regional levels to ensure people:

- 1 have improved quality of life, health and well being and are enabled to be more independent.
- 2 are supported and enabled to self care and have an active involvement in decisions about their care and support
- 3 have choice and control over their care and support so that services are built around their needs
- 4 can design their care around health and social care services which are integrated, flexible, proactive and responsive to individual needs
- 5 are offered health and social care services which are high quality, efficient and sustainable

We are in the process of developing new guidance that will be available through the resource pack to highlight all the local agencies currently providing information to their

local communities. This is based on the initial work undertaken by the [Cancer Services Collaborative 'Improvement Partnership' – now part of NHS Improvement](#).

- [The Information Standard](#)

Accrediting information providers so that a wider range of reliable and trustworthy information materials are more readily accessible to patients, carers and professionals

- [NHS Employers & Workforce](#)

Providing support and guidance to professional groups so they are better able to access relevant information for their patients and carers. Many national programmes have already developed a range of resources - an example of one of these is [Self Care](#).

We have commissioned NHS Employers to bring all these resources together in the resource pack so they are easy to find. In addition, NHS Employers will be identifying if additional support and guidance is needed and how this could be provided in the future.

- [NHS Guides & information prescriptions available through NHS Choices](#)

NHS Choices have developed plans to produce NHS Guides and linked information prescriptions for all long-term conditions by late Spring 2009. This programme of work is designed to support local delivery of better information and support services.

The first 6 NHS Guides and linked information prescriptions went live on 7 July 2008. If you click on the link above this will take you to the Health A-Z. The current NHS Guides are listed to the right of the front page of this section and information prescriptions are linked to each of these NHS Guides.

Summer 2008

CHD
Stroke
Dementia
Diabetes
Asthma
Depression

Autumn 2008

COPD
Arthritis
Heart Failure
Renal Failure
Chronic kidney disease
Prostate Cancer
Bladder Cancer

NHS Choices have also included medicines guides within each condition listed in the Health A-Z and are in the process of developing an online training package to aid navigation within NHS Choices – this should be available in early 2009.

- [NHS Direct - self-help guide and digital TV](#)

NHS Direct is at the forefront of 24-hour health care - delivering telephone and e-health information services day and night direct to the public. Over two million people now access NHS Direct every month.

It is now far more than a telephone health line - NHS Direct has an authoritative website and 2004 saw the addition of the NHS Direct digital TV service - one of the largest interactive services in the UK. The [self-help guide](#) is easy to use and provides additional help and advice so people can find the information they want more easily.

- [PAGB – Medicines Chest](#)

The Proprietary Association of Great Britain (PAGB) representing the consumer healthcare industry, have produced an online directory that is also available in booklet form. This directory provides a detailed guide to all the over the counter (OTC) medicines and food supplements available in the UK. The self care guide linked to this directory provides useful support and advice for patients, carers and professionals alike.

- [DirectGov - Benefits and financial advice](#)

DirectGov brings together the widest range of public service information and services online. Produced by the Central Office of Information, DirectGov provides information from across UK government departments on topics ranging from travel safety and parental leave to special educational needs, [support for carers](#) and local NHS services. DirectGov also provides direct links to [directories of local advice and support services](#) that are available through local authority websites.

- [Patient UK - Directory of websites](#)

An extensive directory of UK websites on health, disease, and related topics. Browse by A-Z, or search using the integrated search solution provided.

- [Patient UK - Patient support organisations and self-help groups](#)

Details of UK patient support organisations, self help groups, health and disease information providers, benefits and financial advice etc. Each entry is cross referenced and details are checked annually. Browse by A-Z, by subject category, or search using the integrated search solution provided.

- [Carers UK](#)

Many of Carers UK's branches and members have been involved in establishing dedicated carers' organisations in their local area. These have provided support, information and in some cases centres where carers can meet face to face. Almost every area of the UK now has a dedicated [local carers organisation](#) providing much needed information and practical help to thousands of carers and these are all listed on the Carers UK website.

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