

Information Prescription Piloting Programme - Planning for sustainability and spread

We first produced these notes on sustainability and spread in October 2007 to support those pilots planning to continue with some or all of their work after January 2008 when the pilot programme came to an end. The DH were keen to help and support all 20 pilots ensure the future plans they were developing were realistic, sustainable and had the full backup and buy in of their local partner and host organisations.

The following 12 steps apply to anyone looking to sustain and build upon the improvements they have already made to local services. These steps are based on the experience from healthcare both in England and beyond for sustaining and spreading improvement ideas.

1. Be clear about how the information prescription system you have put in place will continue to work and be supported
2. Identify what the benefits are to professionals, patients and carers and ensure your systems allow for these benefits to be fully realised
3. Integrate information prescriptions into existing care pathways
4. Obtain buy in and direct support from senior staff in your organisation
5. Ensure all your stakeholders support the way you deliver information prescriptions and have been fully engaged in the process
6. Support and train professionals and staff from the voluntary sector so they are fully equipped and confident to deliver information prescriptions effectively
7. Ensure existing information sources are well publicised and easy to access
8. Continually monitor and review the supporting processes and systems with stakeholders to ensure they are fit for purpose
9. Consolidate and improve existing work before looking to expand to other settings or health conditions
10. Celebrate and promote success widely, recruit champions from a variety of stakeholders to publicise the value and real benefits of information prescriptions
11. Spread information prescriptions wider by reaching agreement with and gaining the support of a people in variety of local organisations that will play an active role in the co-ordinated delivery process
12. Make information prescriptions a “must have” and part of every day health & social care delivery

References

Research into Practice Programme

Spreading and sustaining new practices – learning from the Cancer Services Collaborative 'Improvement Programme'

http://www.institute.nhs.uk/index.php?option=com_joomcart&Itemid=194&main_page=document_product_info&cPath=67&products_id=281

Team working for improvement – planning for spread and sustainability

http://www.institute.nhs.uk/index.php?option=com_joomcart&Itemid=194&main_page=document_product_info&cPath=67&products_id=284

Sustaining health improvements – what have we learned so far?

http://www.institute.nhs.uk/index.php?option=com_joomcart&Itemid=194&main_page=document_product_info&cPath=67&products_id=275

NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement

Improvement Leaders' Guide to sustainability & spread

http://www.cancerimprovement.nhs.uk/View.aspx?page=/nhs_ma_publications.html

Cancer Services Collaborative 'Improvement Programme'

How to provide high quality information to professionals, patients and carers

http://www.cancerimprovement.nhs.uk/View.aspx?page=/cross_tumour/patient_carer_info/improve_patient_info/high_quality_information.html

Guidance for producing patient information action plans

http://www.cancerimprovement.nhs.uk/View.aspx?page=/cross_tumour/patient_carer_info/improve_patient_info/top_tips.html

The importance of local information resource centres

http://www.cancerimprovement.nhs.uk/View.aspx?page=/cross_tumour/patient_carer_info/improve_patient_info/infrastructure/other_key_stakeholders.html#no7

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