

How can we monitor insulin users' medication safety using electronic health records in Integrated Care Systems?



Keeping patients safe from harm is a central goal of health services. Harm can occur when mistakes are made with medicines, for example if the wrong dose is given, or a dose is missed unintentionally. This is more common when a patient's care is shared between more than one service, for example a GP and hospital team, because there are more likely to be problems with communication.

Insulin is a medicine that is especially important to get right when people are admitted and discharged from hospital, and we need to find ways of supporting the same management of insulin as those who use it move between services. There is potential for this to be done using information gathered within the patient's electronic records.

What are we doing?

We are exploring how the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and improvements in shared electronic records can be used to indicate how safe the use of insulin is. ICSs bring GP practices, hospital services, community pharmacies and social care among others, together into one co-ordinated system. ICSs use electronic records and will provide wider availability of real-time information for patients and those health and care professionals who need access to it.

How will it help?

This project aims to map all the essential activities needed to manage insulin safely during transfer of care and find ways that the electronic health records across the ICS can support these proactively. This information will be shared across the North Thames ICS and nationally to improve the management of insulin safely before, during and after hospital admissions.



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