

Joint Working Executive Summary

Project title:

Pain, Education, Confidence, Transformation (PECT)

To improve management of neuropathic/chronic pain patients across West Belfast Federation.

Organisations involved

West Belfast GP Federation

Grunenthal Ltd.

Summary

The intended aim of this project would be to create and implement, across The West Belfast Federation, a programme that will build healthcare professional (HCP) confidence in adult neuropathic/chronic pain management, in order to deliver high quality pain reviews to patients.

Background

West Belfast GP Federation is made up of 16 practices, and have recently built their practice based pharmacist team which is being embedded into primary care across all 16 practices.

Neuropathic pain management in adults for non-specialist settings is a key priority area for the federation, as people who live with neuropathic pain experience significant impact on their quality of life. With lengthy waiting times in secondary care for patient reviews, the federation would like to build capacity and capability in primary care to offer patients suffering with neuropathic pain regular pain reviews.

Objectives

The objectives of this project will be to:

1. Understand and support people who suffer with neuropathic/chronic pain and who do not currently receive support and reviews.
2. Train and upskill all applicable HCPs to improve the knowledge and confidence of HCPs so that they can better advise and support patients with both pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches to pain management.
3. Identify and recall specific cohorts of patients that are likely to need a pain review.
4. Produce a protocol in line with local guidelines that manages the titration/change/removal of pain medication.
5. Monitor and regularly review these patients on a case-by-case basis.
6. Provide care closer to home for patients by providing reviews in primary care.
7. Increase the number of patients treated to the local guidelines using the **“Implementation Support Tool for Non-Malignant Neuropathic Pain Conditions in Non-Specialist Settings”**.

<http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/PDF/HSCB%20Neuropathic%20Pain%20Guideline%20Web%20Version.pdf>

Benefits

Patients

- Implementation of structured reviews for patients that supports the holistic wellbeing of the person including any pharmacological and nonpharmacological needs.
- Improved patient experience when engaging with healthcare services.
- Better care, through patients being treated in line with local best practice guidelines.
- Faster more efficient care for patients, potentially reducing the need to be referred to secondary care or having unplanned pain-related admissions to hospital.

NHS

- A successful project in West Belfast could lead to the establishment of a pain management service that would also impact the wider community.
- Improved Primary Care confidence in optimising the management of patients as per local guidelines and newly created protocol.
- Early intervention in the care of pain patients may reduce pressure on NHS services and may reduce unplanned admissions and referrals.
- Enhance value of Practice Based Pharmacist role in relation to achievement of Medicines Optimisation activities.

Grunenthal

- Opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to patients by putting patient welfare at the heart of this project.
- Improved understanding of the challenges when treating pain within primary care.
- Ability to share learnings from this project to other regions across Northern Ireland and the UK to support improved overall patient care.
- Recognition as a trusted partner in Joint Working projects and the pain environment.
- Increased knowledge and implementation of appropriate pain management including pain medication, which may or may not include medicines manufactured by Grunenthal.

Completion date

31st Dec 2022