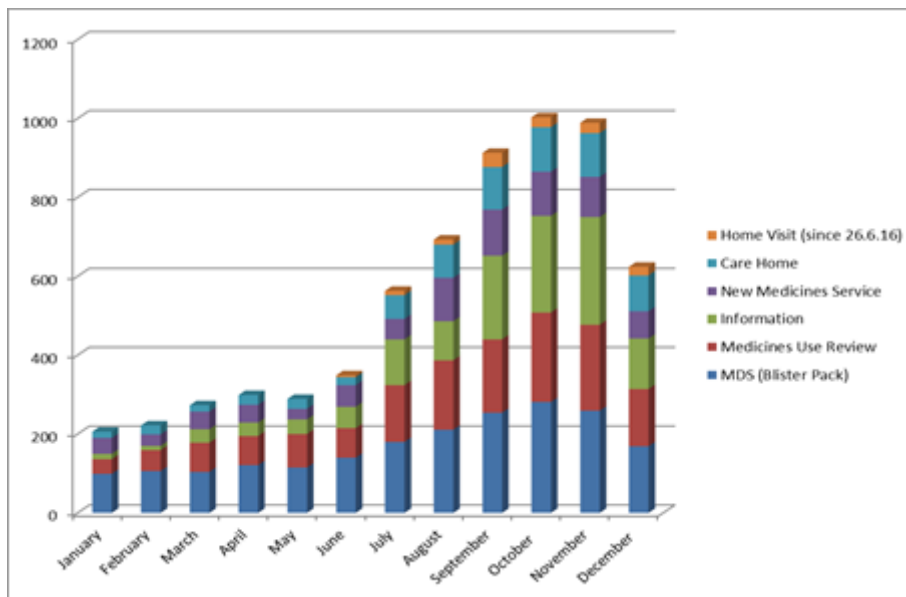


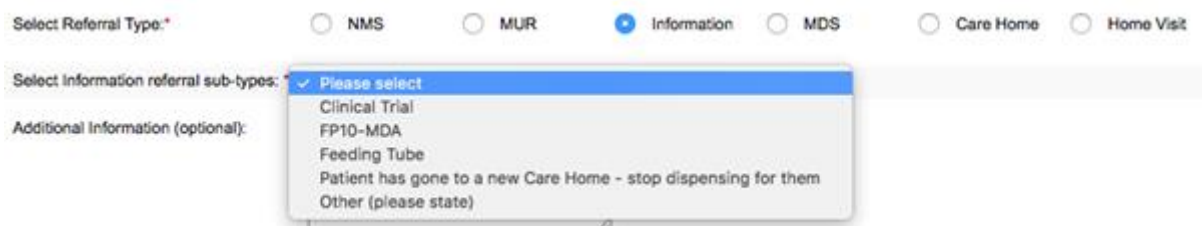
Welcome to the January 2017 [Refer-to-Pharmacy](#) newsletter; as ever please pass it on within your networks.

This has taken a little while to pull this newsletter together because like most hospitals lately, it's been... well, a tad busy.

The chart below shows our referral activity for the last 12 months and December shows an unusual blip which requires a bit of explanation. Three things have conspired: human, technical and the [Festival of Yule](#).



The human: some of the community pharmacists noticed they were getting *Information Referrals* with, well, not very much to do with. This has led to a clarification back at the hospital under what circumstances *Information referrals* should be sent, and has led to a slight drop off in these referrals. A new drop down menu is about to go live which will help everyone know when and why to use this referral type. Here's a screen shot:



The Technical: the ELHT version of Refer-to-Pharmacy is prototype and much experimenting is going on with it to optimise its functions for imminent deployment at several other sites. One such change, just before Christmas, made the system randomly 'blind' to searches for some patients. This was rather unexpected and wasn't instantly picked up because of the third factor.

Christmas! – the traditional Yuletide mix of trying to relax, not knowing what day it is, and the hospital being exceedingly busy with odd working patterns meant the developers weren't informed of the glitch until after New Year's Day.

A fix is imminent, which will also see the deployment of the Hospital Admission Notification message.

Send a Hospital Admission Notification message to community pharmacy?
(Highly recommended for MDS, Care Home and Information referrals)

This is going to be loved by Community Pharmacists – they can pause dispensing for their patients who have been admitted, saving time and preventing medicines waste. As a *quid pro quo* the outcome capture screen in the community end of the system will be tweaked to help quantify the time saving, waste reducing, safety improvement benefits of Refer-to-Pharmacy. Here’s a sneak peek:

Outcome: *

Additional notes:
Notes will be viewable to the referrer when completed.

Did this information prevent an unintentional prescribing error from the next GP's prescription? *

Briefly explain your selected option if you feel further information helps (optional):

Has Refer-to-Pharmacy saved time or cost additional time for this patient?: *
 Saved time Neither saved or cost time Cost time

Please estimate how many minutes were saved: *

Has Refer-to-Pharmacy reduced or generated medicines waste for this patient?: *
 Reduced wasted medicines No effect on wasted medicines Caused additional wasted medicines

Please tell us how many items were NOT dispensed: *

* indicates a required field

This [short YouTube link](https://youtu.be/GEatL2tm2y4) shows what the new features look like in action (<https://youtu.be/GEatL2tm2y4>).

And in other news... Refer-to-Pharmacy has been shortlisted for several upcoming awards. Being part of these awards is aimed at raising awareness of the scheme and encouraging spread of the innovation.

Let’s make 2017 the Year of the Referral.

There are two short-listings in the [North West Coast Academic Health Science Network Innovation Awards](#). Winners are announced on 9th February.

Finally Refer-to-Pharmacy has been shortlisted for three [HSJ Value awards](#). This is in addition to a further nomination for our [#DedicatedWardPharmacy](#) project (more about this next time) and another two for my Trust, giving

@EastLancsHosp more short-listings than any other organisation. We'll find out we how fared @HSJvalue on 24th May.

Finally, one of the local radio stations (2BR) recorded some features about the Trust which were broadcast last week. There's [a nice feature about the Pharmacy team](#).

Until next time... Happy New Year!

Many thanks,



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