

Welcome to the 4th occasional [Refer-to-Pharmacy](#) newsletter sent to anyone who has shown an interest in its development... please pass it on.

Firstly a quick R2P update. Just looking at 2016 – between 1st January and 11th May, 1502 referrals were made consisting of:

- MDS (blister pack) 631
- Medicines use Review 380
- New Medicine Service 215
- Information only 165
- Care Home 111

Until we get a robust analysis of what this all means, my 'early signal indicator' continues to be 28-day readmissions for the same diagnosis from our medical wards. Between January and April 2016 this has fallen from 4.0% to 2.5% for the same period in 2015 i.e. when we didn't have Refer-to-Pharmacy.

Live demonstrations of Refer-to-Pharmacy have been made at sessions at the [eHealth week](#) conference and [The Clinical Pharmacy Congress](#) in April, and only just last week (and in order to present R2P to a non-pharmacy audience) at the [Bristol Patient Safety Conference](#) - for the Twitterati amongst you check out [#BPSC2016](#).

And now in [Two Ronnies](#) style '... and in other news'. At the beginning of this year the Pharmacy Service here has been piloting what we are calling the Dedicated Ward Pharmacy service - four wards with four pharmacists spending all their working week on their designated ward with enhanced pharmacy technician support. Pharmacists have participated in the daily consultant-led ward rounds, influenced prescribing decisions and become hard-wired into the discharge planning process. The technicians concentrated on medicines reconciliation, and creating the medicines elements of patients' electronic discharge letters. And both parties ensured that eligible patients were referred to their community pharmacist!

Such has been the impact of the pilot on the numerous factors which were measured that the model has been approved for roll out across the Trust in three phases. Phase 1 will start in the summer and involves recruiting [four band 4 technicians, two band 5 technicians, five band 6 pharmacists and three band 7 pharmacists.](#)

Finally... apologies to readers of the last R2P newsletter who spotted that the hyperlink to the NHS Wales Discharge Medicines Review (DMR) scheme didn't work – if you Google '*Discharge Medicines Review*' it's the second result found.

Many thanks,



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