

NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group

Freedom of Information response

CROYQTR1/1516/014

1. What was the duration of pharma- sponsored involvement

The company provided funding for the person who carried out the project for 1 year.

2. Who was pharmaceutical company?

Pfizer

3. What task they completed/were involved with?

The pharmacist was employed to review the GP records of patients with Heart Failure (HF) in 28 GP practices. The pharmacist provided recommendations to GPs regarding the initiation and optimisation of the doses of medicines for cardiovascular disease that are important to patients with Heart Failure in line the NICE HF guidance. The pharmacist provided education to GPs regarding the importance of optimising HF medications in order to improve the quality of life, reduce exacerbations and reduce hospital admissions for HF patients in line with NICE guidance. The pharmacist was supervised by a consultant cardiac specialist pharmacist of greater than 20 years' experience and attended regular multidisciplinary meetings with the Croydon University Hospital HF specialist nurses and consultants throughout the duration of the project.

4. What the qualifications were of the individuals involved?

Cardiac Specialist Pharmacist on secondment from the local hospital. The pharmacist was also a qualified independent prescriber although they were not required to prescribe during this project.

5. Whether they had access to patient records or patients?

The pharmacist had access to patient records but not to patients. They worked in line with the required information governance procedures. The pharmacist signed a data processing contract with the GP practice. The contract was drawn up for the CCG by the Information Governance team. No patient identifiable data was removed from the practice or shared with the pharmaceutical industry.

6. What information patients were given about this scheme?

The Croydon pharmacy team is commissioned by the Croydon GPs (as members of the CCG) to provide support and advice to GP practices. The CCG employed the cardiac pharmacist with the support of the Croydon Pharmacy Team to carry out the project which was aimed at working with GPs to improve their management of HF patients in line with the NICE HF guidelines. The Information Governance team advised that implied consent applied in line with the BMA Confidentiality and Disclosure of health information Toolkit reference card 2.