

Primary Care Engagement Scheme 2015/16 – Prescribing

Background

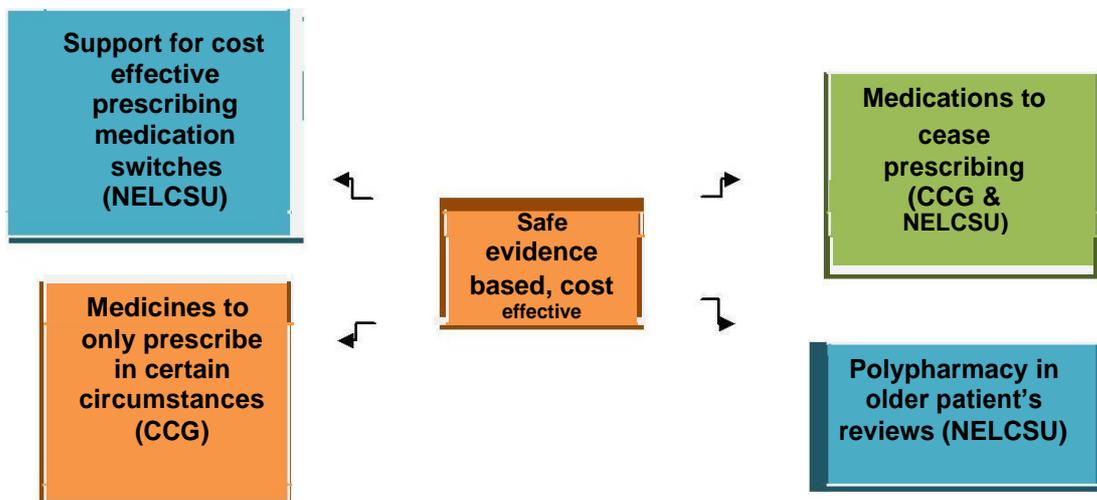
The aim of South Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group (SNCCG) is to provide the highest quality services for our patients within our available resources. In order to do this SNCCG need member Practices to work in collaboration with the CCG commissioning, prescribing and quality teams to look at cost effective use of resources.

SNCCG was established in 2013 and over the financial year 2014/15 it has become clear that the level of historical spend on healthcare is not sustainable in the future. At present there is an £8m gap between SNCCG income and expenditure that needs to be closed on an urgent and ongoing basis. Planning predictions illustrate that the use of healthcare will continue to increase and this gap will only widen unless SNCCG take urgent steps to address this situation.

The proposed scheme for 2015/16 has been based on work undertaken by the Turnaround team, the Governing Body (GB) and the Medicines Support Team from North East London Commissioning Support Unit (NELCSU) with additional input from NHS England.

Aim of the scheme

The aim of the scheme is to support Practices to prescribe in a safe, evidence based cost effective manner utilising the options illustrated below:



The medicines support team from NELCSU send all Practices monthly information regarding the advised medicines to use in high volume and/or high cost areas. Practices are expected to switch existing patients to the advised medicines and to start new patients on the recommended medicines.

In some cases there are medicines, which are not as effective as the alternatives available to treat the same condition, or are no longer reasonable choices given their cost. In these cases Practices will be expected to identify patients on these medicines and review their cases individually in order to determine if the medication can be stopped/ switched to an alternative.

Providing support to member Practices to deliver the scheme

Clinical members of the Governing Body have been undertaking individual and structured Practice visits since February 2015 and the discussion during these visits includes a presentation of the prescribing information. These visits provide an opportunity to discuss the method of switching patients safely to recommended drugs.

NELCSU medicine management staff also undertake regular Practice visits to monitor progress and provide technical support and expertise to clinicians and staff. An example agenda for these meetings along with a template letter to Practices from NELCSU is provided in Appendix 2.

The programme of visits will continue throughout 2015/16 supported by the NELCSU medicines support team who are able to provide practical help to Practices to make the necessary switches, this is outlined in Appendix 3.

Monitoring and performance management of the scheme

Monitoring and support of prescribing will be provided by the NELCSU medicines management team with the publication of progress against plan via the issue of monthly data to individual Practices. Achievement of the scheme will be tracked monthly using aggregated data.

Scheme structure

- Practices have been set a 2015/16 prescribing budget which is an increase of 4.68% on the 2014/2015 outturn, less nine months' worth of the identified savings from the prescribing projects detailed in Appendix 1
- Practices will receive 25% of any prescribing project savings (detailed in Appendix 1) made during the 12 months from 1st July 2015 to the 30th June 2016 provided they also achieve the milestone of underspending on their 2015/16 prescribing budget at the 31st March 2016

If all savings targets are reached there will be £455,856 available to pay Practices in 2016, based on practice achievement. This will require all Practices to address all prescribing areas detailed in Appendix 1.

Savings and payments to Practices

- The potential savings that have been identified for SNCCG are £1,783,422 FYE (July 2015 – June 2016).
- The payments to practices are based on 25% of the saving on the prescribing projects

A specific list of initiatives has been worked up, and whilst not an exhaustive list, SNCCG will work with Practices and NELCSU medicines management team to identify further opportunities during the year as they emerge.

If practices believe there are additional ways of delivering savings there is an opportunity to discuss with the CCG.

Year-end assessment and evaluation of achievement

Final assessment and evaluation of achievement by Practices will be based on whether two criteria have been met across two assessment timelines:

1. Delivery of the 15/16 budget as at the 31st of March 2016 i.e. spend is below the Practice 15/16 budget level (net of the 9 month savings target); **and**

2. Savings have been achieved against the prescribing projects for the 12 months from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016 as measured and reported in the Prescribing Data.

If both criteria are met the Practice will receive 25% of the savings achieved.

Practices who wish to propose an alternative list of savings can put this forward for consideration, but will only be accepted if there is written agreement from the CCG.

Results will be provided to SNCCG GB and member Practices by no later than end of Quarter 3 2016.