

Promoting patient safety with South Devon's Joint Formulary

South Devon Local Health Community (LHC), comprising Torbay Care Trust, NHS Devon and South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, has used the Map of Medicine to help promote patient safety as part of their Right Treatment and Choice (Right TRaC) programme.

Healthcare professionals can now access the South Devon Joint Formulary via the Map of Medicine, and South Devon Right TRaC programme pathways on the Map now include input from the Joint Formulary team.

In existence for over ten years, the South Devon Joint Formulary provides an advisory tool encouraging evidence based, cost effective prescribing across South Devon. It is a hub for medicines management services, and incorporates local and national guidelines as well as an extensive choice of drugs. The content is the result of consultation across the LHC and reflects the collaboration between the specialists and their generalist colleagues.



“Having the South Devon Joint Formulary on the Map of Medicine is the latest step in its evolution and another first, being the only formulary in this format. It sits naturally on the Map as its own entity but also integrates with the local management guidelines.’

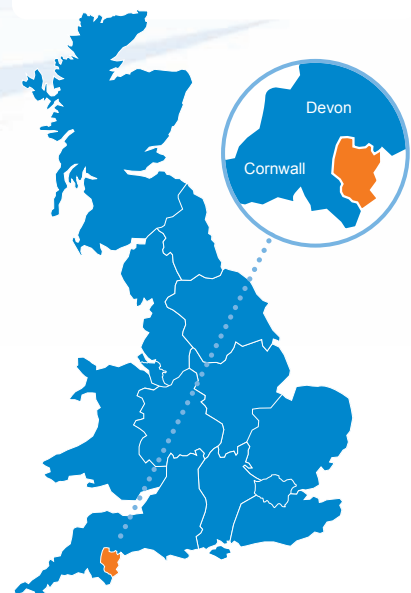
Dr Jo Roberts, GP, Chair of South Devon Joint Formulary.

You can view the pathways on the Map of Medicine by changing your view to South Devon.

Project

In South Devon, Map of Medicine provides current, up to date access to pathways adapted to reflect local services, including the Joint Formulary. It enables clinicians to access the latest locally relevant information, including medications advice.

The South Devon Joint Formulary team initially worked with the Right TRaC team to deliver access to the Joint Formulary as a separate section on the local view of the Map of Medicine. The project was then extended and now Joint Formulary medication advice and information is incorporated within all South Devon local pathways.



Aims

The Joint Formulary Map of Medicine project aimed to further embed the local formulary within everyday clinical practice.

A key objective of the project was the promotion of patient safety. Clinicians would be able to access current, up to date medications advice to support the delivery of effective and safe patient care. Printed versions of the Joint Formulary can quickly become out of date as new medications advice and guidelines are released, requiring clinicians to consult printed updates in addition to the originally distributed Joint Formulary text.

By making the Joint Formulary easily accessible on the Map of Medicine, both as a standalone section and also as an integral part of each South Devon local pathway, clinicians' access to the information would be facilitated. Consequently, the LHC expected that compliance with the Joint Formulary guidance would increase.

Challenges

Initially, the Joint Formulary was available within a separate section on the Map of Medicine, in the form of whole chapters. This resulted in a slower than desirable speed of access to the information for clinicians. Consequently, the chapters were divided into appropriate sections, improving access to the relevant medications information for clinicians at the point of care.

Results

Patient safety has been improved by facilitating access for clinicians to the most up to date, evidence-based medications advice from the South Devon Joint Formulary.

Changes made to the Joint Formulary are immediately accessible to clinicians via the Map of Medicine. The Formulary is integrated and embedded within the patient journey and clinical care, providing a single source of information to clinicians.

The project has improved communication between clinicians and the Joint Formulary team, promoting both compliance with the Formulary and also involvement of clinicians in the development of Formulary.

In the future, efficiency benefits are expected as a result of increased accessibility and compliance with South Devon Joint Formulary guidance.

Next Steps

During the project, the South Devon Joint Formulary was also supplied to clinicians in the traditional printed version, with additional updates and amendments provided as required. There is a future opportunity to evaluate the requirement for a printed version or the number of copies printed, which could result in financial efficiencies for South Devon LHC, as well as cutting the carbon footprint of the LHC through reduced printing and physical distribution of the printed Formulary.

The Joint Formulary complies with the Freedom of Information principles and supplies guidelines to the public on request. The intention is to enable local pathways to be available to patients and the general public via NHS Choices, improving patient access to the information. This will support patients being able to view information directly, without the requirement to follow the formal process for requesting and obtaining the local Joint Formulary information.

Aims

- Embed the local Formulary within everyday clinical practice
- Promote patient safety and improve compliance.

Challenges

- Dividing the Formulary into appropriate sections.

Results

- Changes made to Formulary immediately accessible to clinicians
- Formulary embedded in the patient journey
- Patient safety improved.



For more information visit www.mapofmedicine.com

