



## Summary report

# Workshop on the patient perspective in medicines optimisation and NICE compliance

## Introduction

Despite medicines playing an ever-increasing role in preventing ill health, curing disease and helping to manage long term conditions effectively, evidence suggests that the potential of medicines is not yet being fully realised and that medicines are often not being used as effectively as they could be.<sup>1</sup> For example, it is known that between 30% and 50% of medicines prescribed to people living with long term conditions (LTCs) are not taken as intended.<sup>2</sup>

## The workshop

In order to explore how NHS organisations in the West Midlands could be best supported to involve patients in decisions about their choice of medicines, Pfizer and the West Midlands Academic Health Science Network (WMAHSN) hosted a joint workshop on the patient perspective in medicines optimisation and NICE compliance on 7 October 2015 in Birmingham.

Attended by representatives of the local clinical commissioning groups, NHS trusts and patient advocacy groups, the workshop examined local evidence to produce a series of recommendations for the WMAHSN to help encourage greater involvement of patients in decisions about their medicines in the West Midlands.

## WMAHSN areas of action

At the workshop it was agreed that the WMAHSN would take forward actions in the following five distinct areas:

1. Patient empowerment and professional education
2. Prioritisation of medicines optimisation
3. Patient representation in local Area Prescribing Committees
4. Improving local communications
5. Releasing the potential of community pharmacy

Ensuring patient involvement is essential to all five of the proposed areas of actions. Opportunities for patients to be involved in the WMAHSN's planned activities include the development of a "good consultation" guide with health care professionals and also encouraging patient participation in Area Prescribing Committees.

**For more information** about the outcomes of this workshop or how you can support the WMAHSN in this initiative, please contact Lucy Chatwin, Business Manager, at [lucy.chatwin@wmahsn.org](mailto:lucy.chatwin@wmahsn.org).

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## REFERENCES

- 1 Royal Pharmaceutical Society, *Helping patients to make the most of medicines*, May 2013; [www.rpharms.com/promoting-pharmacy-pdfs/helping-patients-make-the-most-of-their-medicines.pdf](http://www.rpharms.com/promoting-pharmacy-pdfs/helping-patients-make-the-most-of-their-medicines.pdf)
- 2 NICE, *Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes (NICE guideline)*, March 2015; [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng5](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng5)