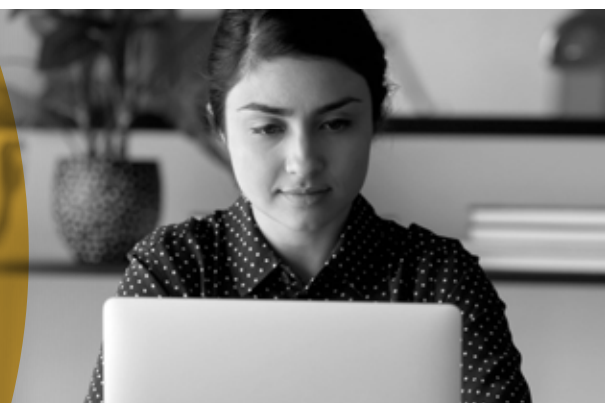# Vertis Health PCN drives operational efficiencies within lipid management

FDB AnalyseRx is the first solution fully integrated into EMIS Web to help NHS primary care teams proactively identify and easily action medicines optimisation opportunities across a patient population.

AnalyseRx allows primary care team members to coordinate and manage medicines optimisation opportunities for the benefit of patients, while also driving efficiencies across ICB, PCN and practice level. A Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) called The Clinical Excellence and Investment Framework (CEIF) was co-designed between NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB, local practices and PCNs to support the delivery of national priorities and services. As part of this framework, the ICB chose FDB's AnalyseRx to help them optimise medicines, improve patient care and meet the contractual targets laid out in CEIF and other core requirements. FDB then consulted with them to understand regional and local priorities before reviewing national indicators within AnalyseRx that could support CEIF and other core requirements. AnalyseRx was then deployed to all practices within the ICB.

Background

As part of these CEIF contractual targets as well as the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), Pharmacy Technician at Vertis Health PCN, Jennie Smith, aimed to contact patients automatically identified by AnalyseRx to reduce cardiovascular risk, a leading cause of avoidable mortality and long-term disability. In doing so, she was also looking to achieve contractual targets around lipid management that would benefit her surgeries financially. As part of Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB, she was able to use AnalyseRx to better identify and manage those patients that could benefit from a lipid lowering therapy, such as a statin. These relevant indicators were already set up within the AnalyseRx software, so they were easily accessible for all practices to benefit from.

Improvement in Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) figures

CHOL001 achieved:

JULY 2023

APRIL 2024
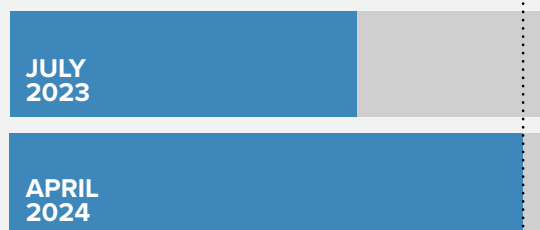
95% TARGET

"Using AnalyseRx to highlight these patients improves focus and can often break these seemingly unachievable targets down into smaller chunks. We can make and filter a patient search in just a few clicks, which means a lot less time spent on admin and more time communicating with patients to improve their care."

JENNIE SMITH, *Pharmacy Technician, Vertis Health PCN*

Identifying patients in need of treatment optimisation

With AnalyseRx fully integrated into the GP Clinical system, Jennie was easily able to identify patients across multiple surgeries who would benefit from optimisation of lipid lowering therapy and contacted them to see if they were happy to have their statin dose increased or swapped to a more effective drug. **"I particularly love the filters and 'add columns' functionality as this helps to create a comprehensive search at the few clicks of a button,"** she said.

First, she focused on the QOF indicator CHOL002. This was a time-sensitive indicator, as patients required a blood test that showed their non-HDL cholesterol was below 2.5mmol/L in order to achieve this indicator. Using AnalyseRx, she was able to search for the relevant opportunity, apply filters and quickly identify patients that met the CHOL002 indicators before reaching out to them.

Following the success of this approach, Jennie also utilised AnalyseRx to look at the CHOL001 indicator to surface patients that could benefit from lower lipid therapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. These patients were invited in to discuss options.

Improving patient outcomes

Once identified and offered treatment optimisation, fantastic outcomes were achieved across patients. One such patient identified through AnalyseRx had their medication swapped. This saw their non-HDL cholesterol reduced from 3.5mmol/L down to 2.2.mmol/L after 6 months, reducing the risk of unplanned hospital admissions as result of a cardiovascular event.

By focusing on the CHOL001 indicator, Jennie was able to increase the percentage of patients on an appropriate lower lipid therapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease to 95%. Not only was this of benefit to these patients, but in doing so she was able to achieve maximum points for this QOF indicator and bring in more money in the form of incentive payments for these practices to improve patient care. She has high hopes that through use of AnalyseRx, she can continue to achieve these targets in the future.

Increasing efficiency across patient management

Using AnalyseRx meant that appropriate patients across the PCN could be identified with just a few clicks, allowing clinical teams to spend more time on patient care instead of laborious searches.

The lists of patients identified and requiring a blood test, were exported to the practice's SMS text messaging service so they could be texted to be offered treatment optimisation and booked in for a blood test. **This resulted in improved outcomes for both the patients themselves and the practices, as the change was introduced through only one single appointment for the blood test itself.**

If patients did want to book in to discuss their options, they were encouraged to book in with a Pharmacy Technician either face to face or via a telephone call, allowing Pharmacists and GPs to focus on more urgent and complex issues. **"I managed to save a number of appointments with other members of staff and even saved myself the time spent on appointments, simply by texting the patients,"** she said.

As well as saving time, staff across surgeries are now better coordinated in managing these patients, optimising appointment availability and streamlining patient access to primary care. "This is beneficial as we strive to improve access to Primary Care and ensure patients are able to request appointments when they need them at a time that suits them," she explained. The response from patients has been overwhelmingly positive too, with the vast majority agreeing to an offer of treatment optimisation when contacted.

Driving lasting change

Jennie's approach using AnalyseRx is now being applied more widely across her local PCN teams, where staff experience has improved through optimised appointment availability. This approach has also spread to other Pharmacy Technicians across the wider South Worcestershire area, with whom she has shared her learnings in lipid management.

"FDB held regular touchpoints with the project team at ICB level and practice teams to gain feedback, discuss progress and gather suggestions for solution improvements and usability," Jennie added. This close working relationship and continuous feedback has also enabled FDB to plan and action improvements in clinical content which are regularly deployed for the benefit of all national AnalyseRx users.

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