

QuDoS Multiple sclerosis: NHS case studies 2019

Outstanding MS pharmacist

Your name, job title and centre

Joela Mathews, Highly Specialist Pharmacist - Neurosciences Lead, Barts Health NHS Trust

Project / initiative name

UK Neurology Pharmacists Network

Project start date

November 2013



Challenge

1. Neurology pharmacists faced with designing procedures and protocols for new MS drugs were working in isolation.
2. Best practice was not being shared between people working in similar positions across the country.
3. Education and career development opportunities for neurology pharmacists were lacking.

Solution

1. The UK Neurology Pharmacists Network was established by contacting all the neuro pharmacists in the UK and inviting them to a regular meeting.
2. Originally, these meetings were backed with pharmaceutical company funding, though the network now works independently.
3. The network holds two face-to-face meetings a year and members keep in regular contact via email.
4. The network works with partner organisations, such as the UK Clinical Pharmacists Association and the Neurology Academy, to develop and deliver education and career development opportunities. Examples include the Neurology Academy's Neurology Pharmacist's training course and a UKCPA-backed research day.

Results

1. A total of 16 people graduated from the inaugural Neurology Academy Neurology Pharmacist training course in 2019. The network works with the academy to develop and deliver the curriculum.
2. The role of the neurology pharmacist has grown in scope and prominence since the network was established.
3. Neurology pharmacists feel better supported in their roles, more confident in their ability to develop effective protocols and procedures, and more integrated into the wider MS multi-disciplinary team.

Next steps

We would like to work withECTRIMS to add a pharmacist-focused session to its annual meeting agenda. This would allow us to share best practice Europe-wide.

What was the biggest challenge?

When the network first started, some members were forced to take annual leave in order to attend.

How did you overcome the challenge?

We soon realised that this was because management did not understand the value of the project. To overcome this, we added a general discussion session to the agenda, during which people were encouraged to share problems they faced in day-to-day practice. Because of the nature of the group, members were able to share and develop practical solutions that could be easily implemented once they were back at their centres. This approach allowed members to quickly demonstrate the value of attending the meetings.

What would be your advice to others wanting to replicate this project?

Get on and do it!

Book a room and a date around six months in advance to give everyone a chance to get it in their diaries and send regular reminders. Make it clear that everyone is invited. Don't worry too much about having a formal agenda or getting funding – all you need to do is get people with a similar passion and a problem to solve in the same room. Most hospitals will have a room you can book for free and people are usually happy to pay for their own coffee and lunch if they can see the value in what you are doing.

Testimonial quote



**A delegate quote
from the first
Neuropharmacist
masterclass**

This helped to understand how the pharmacist role can develop in an area, improve service and be developed to support day to day management of patients."

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