

## **14 A completed audit cycle: Medicines Reconciliation in a Community Learning Disability Service**

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**AIMS AND HYPOTHESIS** The aim was to complete an audit cycle about medicines reconciliation in the Birmingham Community Learning Disability Service as it was hypothesised most patients were not bringing medication lists to clinic appointments.

**BACKGROUND** According to the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) "Medicines reconciliation, as defined by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, is the process of identifying an accurate list of a person's current medicines and comparing them with the current list in use, recognising any discrepancies, and documenting any changes, thereby resulting in a complete list of medicines, accurately communicated." Before the initial audit in November 2018, it had been noticed that patients or their carers were not always fully aware of the exact medications patients were taking. When carers had brought Medication Administration Record (MAR) sheets to clinic, there had occasionally been a difference between medications on the MAR sheets and our records. It was felt that improved medicines reconciliation would ensure clinicians are fully aware of patients' medication and it would be useful in case there needed to be a change in the medication dose or the medication itself.

**METHODS** The audit criterion was as follows: "Patients or carers should bring in the list of medications to each outpatient appointment." The target standard was "100%." This criterion did not refer to formal guidelines, but as written above, NICE refers to medicines reconciliation. All patients attending two consultants' clinics in November 2018 (initial audit) and November 2019 (re-audit) were included in the audit cycle. Between the initial audit and re-audit, patients and/or carers were requested to bring their medication lists to appointments as advised in appointment letters.

**RESULTS** (i) Initial audit (November 2018) In November 2018, there were 99 appointments across the two consultants' caseloads. 33 of these 99 patients (33%) brought in their medication lists. (ii) Re-audit (November 2019) In November 2019, 82 appointments were attended across the same two consultants' clinics. 48 of these 82 patients (58%) brought in their medication list.

**CONCLUSION** Between the initial and re-audit, there has been an overall improvement in the proportion of patients and their carers bringing in medication lists to outpatient appointments. This was following the intervention of appointment letters requesting patients and/or carers to bring in medication lists to appointments.