POMH-UK Membership

POMH-UK provides a ‘first-rate service to healthcare providers by designing high-quality audits of prescribing practice, making it easier for teams to benchmark their practice against national standards and implement changes aimed at improving the quality of care that patients receive.’

Professor Mike Crawford
Director of the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ Centre for Quality Improvement

Costs for the 2020 membership period

POMH-UK is open to all specialist mental health services in the UK and Ireland. The fee for Trust/organisation membership is £5,100 + VAT for the 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 membership period. This enables services to participate in all of our QIPs or to select the ones they consider appropriate.

We offer a discounted rate of £14,550 + VAT for organisations that join for three years.

POMH-UK is funded solely by subscriptions from member organisations and does not receive any funding from the pharmaceutical industry.

Find out more

Find out more about POMH-UK and membership on our website at www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pomh

You can join online or contact a member of our team below:

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What is the Prescribing Observatory for Mental Health (POMH-UK)?

The Prescribing Observatory for Mental Health (POMH-UK) is based at the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ Centre for Quality Improvement. We run national Quality Improvement Programmes (QIPs) open to all UK specialist mental health services.

Services that are members of POMH-UK take part in audit-based QIPs that focus on specific topics within mental health prescribing practice. We support clinical services to improve the quality of their prescribing practice and reduce risks associated with medicines management.

Wide participation in the audits creates a picture of prescribing practice nationally. Member organisations are able to identify where their prescribing practice meets evidence-based standards along with areas for improvement, where local intervention may be warranted.

Example of POMH-UK benchmarked reporting:

How POMH-UK supports clinicians and services

Over the last fourteen years, active participation in POMH-UK QIPs has helped services in individual Trusts and nationally to improve the quality of prescribing, monitoring and review of psychotropic medication.

Participation can also help your organisation demonstrate that it is meeting national requirements by:

- Providing evidence relevant to the local implementation of NICE guidelines and compliance with relevant CQC standards.
- Informing local QI initiatives.
- Providing data for Trust Quality Accounts.
- Providing clinical staff with the opportunity to become more familiar with the audit process as a tool for quality improvement.

We provide:

- Support to help clinical services measure practice against national standards and agreed best practice.
- Clear, customised reports for each QIP that allow services to confidentially benchmark their prescribing practice against other services and the national sample.
- Change interventions, where appropriate, specifically designed for individual QIPs to support specialist mental health services improve local practice.
- Opportunities for sharing good practice through our annual regional events, regular updates on the POMH-UK programme and access to the members’ area of our website.

Quality improvement programmes (QIPs) for the 2020 membership period

The POMH-UK team provide participants with all the help needed to measure practice in a QIP area. We develop the data collection tools, services enter their data online and then we undertake the analysis.

In 2019, POMH-UK QIPs have addressed:

- Prescribing for depression in adult mental health services.
- The use of depot/LAI antipsychotics for relapse prevention.
- The monitoring of patients prescribed lithium.

QIPs with data collection in the 2020 membership period are:

- The use of psychotropic medication in people with learning disabilities.
- The quality of clozapine prescribing.

Plus a NEW QIP FOR 2020:

- Prescribing valproate, including implementation of the mandated MHRA pregnancy prevention programme.