

My Medication Passport



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

WHAT IS THE MEDICATION PASSPORT?

The medication passport is a written record of a patient's medicines. It is designed to improve communication between patients, carers and healthcare professionals and maintain a record of changes made to patient's medication. Features of the medication passport include:

- Relevant information about the patient and the GP
- List of medicines that the patient cannot take and the reasons
- Compliance aids in use
- List of patient's current medicines
- List of any changes to medicines

WHO GETS THE MEDICATION PASSPORT?

Although the Medication Passport was created as part of a project to improve prescribing for the elderly, it would be beneficial to anyone who is taking medication.

HOW WERE PATIENTS INVOLVED IN ITS CREATION?

From start to finish, patients have been heavily involved in the creation and development of the medication passport. The concept of a medication passport originated from a focus group. The subsequent development of the passport was led by patient and public representatives through discussions at the project steering group and working drafts were taken to a local reader group.

WHO GIVES OUT THE MEDICATION PASSPORT AND WHEN?

All healthcare professionals can give out the Medication Passport; this includes doctors, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other healthcare professionals. The Medication Passport can be given to both outpatients and inpatients in acute Trusts and also across community settings. The Medication Passport has been designed to improve communication of medication changes across interfaces of care.

WHO WOULD FILL IN THE PASSPORT?

Patients should be encouraged wherever possible to fill out their Medication Passports for themselves with the help of their carers/relatives. This is easiest done with their discharge prescription after discharge or with the repeat prescription part of the FP10 in primary care. If they are having difficulties with filling out any of the sections they can seek advice from any healthcare professional. The 'changes to my medicines' section within the passport should be completed by the healthcare professional that is making changes to the patient's medicines or by the patient themselves.

Alternatively, please refer to the Medication Passport Guidance for more information (accessed through the e-learning website below).

WHAT IF MEDICATION CHANGES OCCUR VIA PHONE/EMAIL/LETTER

If medication changes occur without the presence of the prescriber, the patient or carer/relative can transcribe the medication change into the passport. This can also be applied if the patient forgets their medication passport at home i.e. the patient can record the change retrospectively.

WILL PATIENTS CARRY IT AROUND?

We strongly encourage patients to keep their medication passport with them especially when attending their GP, any clinic appointments, hospital or when visiting any healthcare professional. The London Ambulance service staff have also been made aware of the medication passport and will encourage patients to bring it with them to the Emergency Department.

IS IT SAFE TO PUT PATIENTS IN CHARGE OF THEIR HEALTH?

We have always campaigned for patient safety to be at the forefront of services but also welcome a much greater emphasis on the patient experience and a focus on patient needs. Empowered patients are more likely to become active participants in decision making and in managing their own health.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT LANGUAGE VERSIONS?

Currently the only version available is in English. Different language versions are being explored.

HOW DO YOU ORDER MEDICATION PASSPORTS?

A system will go live in February 2013 to allow HCPs to order passport starter kits via the NW London CLAHRC website which can be accessed by www.clahrc-northwestlondon.nihr.ac.uk. Starter kits will contain passports and other materials such as posters, leaflets and this FAQ document.

HOW WILL YOU ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PASSPORTS?

NW London CLAHRC have secured some funding from Astra Zeneca to help with the cost of printing of 20,000 passports in the first instance and are exploring avenues to secure longer term funding for the printing of passports. Until this funding has been secured we will ensure there is a mechanism available for health care providers to order and pay for the passports at cost.

WILL THERE BE ANY APP OR ELECTRONIC VERSIONS COMING OUT?

An iPhone and Android version of My Medication Passport 'app' has been launched in parallel. The iPhone app is available on iTunes and the Android app via Google Play. The links to both stores can be found on the CLAHRC website: www.clahrc-northwestlondon.nihr.ac.uk/research-projects/bespoke-projects/my-medication-passport

HOW DO YOU INTEGRATE THIS INTO YOUR CURRENT IT SYSTEM?

Before investing time and resource in IT solutions, utility and benefits of the passport need to be ensured.

WHAT IS THE EVALUATION STRATEGY?

Qualitative work is underway with surveys aimed at patients and healthcare professionals. Patient interviews are also being carried out. Quantitative work will begin when a substantial amount of passports are in circulation. If you are interested in taking part in any of these evaluations, please contact the CLAHRC team via the website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

<http://goo.gl/5YFfk>