



Welcome to the first iSIMPATHY newsletter. iSIMPATHY is an EU funded project running until March 2023 across the three jurisdictions of Northern Ireland, Scotland and the border areas of the Republic of Ireland. The project ensures the best and most sustainable outcomes with medication use in patients taking multiple medicines. Some of the fuller 69 case finding indicators may pick up a rare patient with one long term illness. iSIMPATHY helps enable patients to lead healthy and active lives by supporting both them and clinicians to define and achieve realistic goals of drug treatment through medicine reviews. In this update we share reflections on the key milestones the project has reached, provide details of upcoming learning events and training, and how you can help share the message about the project.

Major milestone reached

“The review considered me as a whole person, not just my medical conditions” (Seamus, 62 years). Over 2,500 medicine reviews have now been completed. All pharmacists were in post by February 2021, and we asked for their reflections on the last 6 months, and what they are hoping to achieve. Many of the challenges have been overcome, with highly positive feedback from wider multi-disciplinary teams and patients:



“My review was not rushed and hugely beneficial to my care” (Steven, 45 years) and “The project deliverables drive you to drive change, and that makes a difference to patients” (Project Pharmacist). Looking

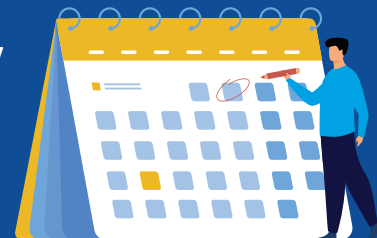
ahead we aim to understand the benefits of

the project in a different setting, and share learning to support delivery and training.

Training and learning opportunities

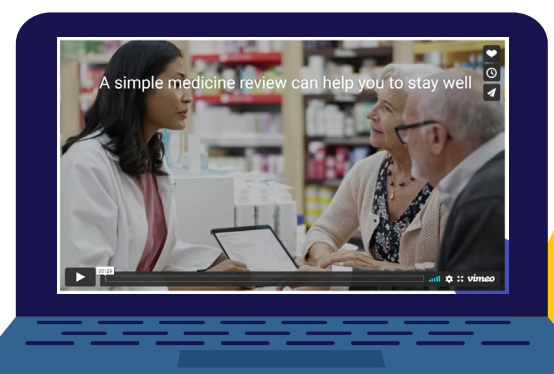
We have several learning opportunities running this autumn.

- Accredited online training for doctors and healthcare professionals is launching soon. The course covers delivering medicines reviews and integrating them within health and care processes, shared learning and opportunities for improving optimisation of medicines. To find out more and to register your interest, please contact nss.isimpathy@nhs.scot
- The iSIMPATHY ECHO Knowledge Network Programme also has an upcoming series of monthly sessions running until March 2022. [Find out more about the programme](#) and how to join.



Explore our new website

The new [iSIMPATHY website](#) is now live. Here you'll find information on project partners and a bank of resources to support your work and share with stakeholders. There's also a section for patients and carers for you to signpost to. We'll be adding project updates, case studies, reflections and learning in our news section. If you have something you'd like to share about the work you've been doing on iSIMPATHY, please [get in touch](#). Or follow us on twitter for the latest news and updates [@iSIMPATHY](#)



Spreading the word about iSIMPATHTY

The Work Package Leads for the three jurisdictions have been speaking at events about the project. You can still catch up with Dr Claire Scullin and Dr Joanne Brown discussing iSIMPATHTY and how to decrease inappropriate polypharmacy with [@MedUpdateOn1ine](#).

Want to help share the message? Forward your newsletter to colleagues with an interest in polypharmacy and medicine safety.



Supporting reviews with the Manage Medicines app

The [Manage Medicines app](#) is a key way to support the medicines reviews process. With easy to navigate toolkits for both professionals and patients or carers, the app also lets patients answer questions ahead of their reviews. As well as giving practitioners this information in advance, it helps patients get the most out of their medicines reviews. Look out for our short animation explaining the app and the PROMs (Patient Reported Outcomes Measures) questionnaire coming soon on our website and twitter.

