CZH/4/1146 - Enhanced Medication Summaries to reduce high risk prescribing in people with polypharmacy in primary care: a cluster randomised trial

Minimising the risks associated with polypharmacy is an important challenge for health services internationally. NHS Scotland has created national polypharmacy guidance and made polypharmacy reviews part of the GP contract. However, the guidance is 50 pages long and difficult to use. The aim of this project is to draw on the national guidance to develop an individual patient enhanced medication summary which clearly identifies potentially inappropriate prescribing to support polypharmacy reviews, and evaluate whether it improves prescribing quality and safety. We will initially work with NHS colleagues to collaboratively develop the enhanced medication summary and implement it in the NHS Ayrshire and Arran primary care information system, then evaluate its effect in a cluster-randomised trial in all A&A practices, with a parallel process evaluation to understand how GPs used it in practice. If effective, the enhanced medication summary could be implemented across Scotland, improving care for a highly vulnerable patient group.