

2014 Commissioned Research on Dementia care

Chief Investigator: Professor Carmel Hughes, Queen's University Belfast

Title of research project: The Development of a Comprehensive Medicines Management Approach for Persons with Dementia in Primary Care.

Abstract: Medicines management' refers to prescribing, review, administration and adherence associated with medicines. We know that older people may continue to receive medicines that are not appropriate and their adherence with treatment can be poor. However, in persons with dementia (PWD), very little is known about the type of medicines prescribed, the quality of prescribing, and their adherence with medicines. In this three-phase project, we will examine medicines management in PWD who live in their own homes. The first phase will use a prescribing database to look at medicines prescribed for PWD by their general practitioners (GPs), and we will assess the quality of prescribing. In the second phase, PWD, carers, GPs and community pharmacists will be invited to take part in an interview to discuss medicines management from their point of view. The content of the interviews will be analysed to find out what might be helpful in medicines management for PWD and what might be a problem. We will then develop an approach in which GPs, community pharmacists, PWD and carers can work together to improve medicines management. This will be tested in the final phase of the project in a small number of GP practices and community pharmacies.