

ADVERSE EVENTS



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Healthcare researchers have recently begun to utilise technology as a method of improving patient safety. The aim of such technology is to provide easy to use and useful programmes which can aid practitioners in their healthcare duties. The current project aimed to provide technological support to two main programmes; the Tayside In Practice Prescribing Portfolio (TIPP) and Safety Improvement in Primary Care (SIPC).

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Tayside In Practice Prescribing Portfolio (TIPP)

TIPP was designed to inform systems of clinical governance, appraisal and professional revalidation in General Practice. As part of the project GPs were asked to reflect on a variety of sources of information about their personal performance and the performance of their Practice.

As part of the TIPP pilot, software was designed and produced to generate reports used by practices to evaluate their prescribing safety performance. The reports included 13 safety indicators, such as co-prescription of warfarin and NSAIDs and tri-cyclic anti-depressant prescription to patients aged 75 and over, and compared the practice's performance compared to other practices in the same health board. The reports also included information on the indicator and why the prescribing behaviour was considered risky.

Safety Improvement in Primary Care (SIPC)

The Health Informatics Centre (HIC) can link data about medicines dispensed from community pharmacies to other information about the patient, including demographic characteristics and results of laboratory tests to create measures of the safety of medicines prescribing and monitoring. Creating these linkages for individual medicines is time consuming so the aim of the project was to produce computer programmes that would automate key measures and be used to create customised measures and SPC (Statistical Process Control) charts.

As part of the Safety Improvement in Primary Care (SIPC) programme, a website was designed and created which practices use to enter data for several safety indicators. The website is currently used by 80 practices in 4 health boards. Practices enter a numerator (the number of patients compliant with the indicator) and denominator (the number of patients being measured) for each measure, which is then shown on a longitudinal chart along with the average for all practices in the same health board. Practices may also upload PDSAs (Plan, Do, Study, Act) and search and view PDSAs uploaded by other practices in all health boards.