



## Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group

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### Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding the impact of the repeat prescription changes within NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

#### Request/Response:

What consideration & discussions were undertaken with regard to the impact of the repeat prescriptions changes recently introduced on and the people caring for others. This change has just made my life more complicated, the one task I let someone else do for my wife as her main carer has just been disregarded and written off. What other costs and implications areas did the CCG consider in this change?

Ahead of piloting the repeat prescription ordering scheme, we carried out full equality and quality assessments to understand what impact the change would have for patients, practices and pharmacies.

These assessments very much confirmed the need for us to build safeguards into the pilot, to ensure that any patients and their carers who would struggle with the changes would continue to have appropriate systems for ordering repeat medicines.

We published an initial three month evaluation report, midway through the pilot, which highlights the benefits of the scheme for patients in improving safety issues and monitoring of their medication, in addition to reducing the cost of wasted medicines.

You can view this report in full from our website

<http://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/media/1845/final-rpos-pilot-3-month-evaluation-dec-16.pdf>

We are now in the process of producing a final evaluation report of the scheme, expected to be finalised in the early autumn. It will contain a more detailed cost analysis, much of this relates to the time commitment of the medicines management team in supporting practices to introduce the scheme.



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In order to ensure the scheme's successful introduction in practices, the medicines management team has committed a great deal of time to support both surgeries and their patients to manage the change. This includes speaking to patients to understand their individual requirements, and additionally, the evaluation report will include the results of focused work we are currently carrying out with vulnerable patients to better understand the effectiveness of the safeguards that have been put in place to meet their needs.

Our head of medicines management, Susanne Lynch would welcome a conversation with you about your experience of the scheme, to explore your issues further and to better understand if the scheme is appropriate for your individual circumstances. Susanne is available on [Susanne.lynch@southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Susanne.lynch@southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk) on 0151 247 7282.