

## A Day in the Life of... Professional Lead for Medicines Optimisation & Medication Safety Officer

“I work alongside other pharmacy professionals in the Corporate Medicines Optimisation Team. I support the development of Trust-wide policies and guidelines and work with services on bespoke procedures and education material on how they use medicines in their setting.

“I provide professional leadership on a range of medicines related issues including auditing safe and secure handling of controlled drugs (Community Dental), auditing antimicrobial prescribing (Secure Estate setting), developing SOPs for transcribing (Community Care Bed setting), delivering training on safe use of insulin (Community Nursing Teams) and contributing to the development of Patient Group Directions for administration or supply of medicines.

“As Medication Safety Officer (MSO) I spend time reviewing incidents involving medicines to ensure an appropriate level of investigation has occurred, that all contributing factors have been considered and that learning has been identified to reduce the risk of the incident happening again. I also evaluate the harm status of incidents involving medication so there is a consistent approach.

“My MSO work also involves data analysis, trend analysis and preparation of reports to identify hot spots. I will then work with teams and services to produce improvement plans and support the implementation of solutions to improve medicines safety.

“I work within an active network of MSOs across West Yorkshire where we share information and learning, This is especially helpful where incidents involve more than one healthcare setting.

“I am also involved in the Trust Quality Challenge+ programme, a locally adapted framework for services to self-assess against the Care Quality Committee standards. I am a *Quality Walker* which means that along with other colleagues, I visit services (who don't necessarily use medicines) and get some real insight into what they offer our communities, their challenges and successes. As a critical friend I can recognise good practice and offer recommendations for improvement where necessary.

“The best part of my role is being able to use my pharmaceutical knowledge and experience to support others in providing the most effective and safe way of patients getting the maximum benefit from their medicines.”