



South West London
Academic, Health and Social Care
 System

Case Studies- Series 1

Using Tech to Target Effective Medicine Management

Having identified a training gap in mental health medicine management, Carl Holvey used two lots of SWLS Small Grants funding to develop an effective and accessible e-learning package and an app for patient self-monitoring.

The SWLS funded e-learning project began at Springfield Hospital in 2011 with the aim of improving staff's mental health medicine knowledge, medicine handling, physical monitoring of mental health medicines, and medicine safety. Early on SWLS also put the team in touch with other professionals in South West London with experience in e-learning development.

“Being able to tap into that knowledge base was invaluable. Their experience of e-learning really influenced what we developed; making it simpler, more focused, and effective.” – Carl Holvey, Principal Clinical & Deputy Chief Pharmacist, South West London & St George's NHS Trust



Immediate Impact on Hospital

Over the course of the pilot project 27 staff were trained and a final report was submitted in March 2013. But new beneficial impacts continue to ripple out from those crucial 18 months of work.

The e-learning programme now has greater than 95% compliance rate of mandatory training with its target groups of all in-patient nurses, community nurses, and allied health professionals and social workers. Medicine

incidents that result in moderate or severe harm have fallen to zero, reporting is now in the top quartile for compliance, and an audit revealed an improvement in 47 out of 48 indicators. Use of the e-learning resource has also contributed towards a positive safety culture in the hospital where reporting of medicines incidents has increased dramatically .

“Finding pots of money is difficult so for SWLS to give us this opportunity was great.

‘Making best practice accepted practice’

Surveys have shown that the trainees and staff love it. They think it's flexible and easy to fit in to their working patterns. And it's had a great impact on monthly and yearly clinical compliance targets being met due to the training."
– Carl Holvey

Expanding Scope of E-learning

As intended, SWLS's pump prime funding allowed others to see the project's huge potential. Once the original grant was exhausted the Director of Nursing provided further funding for Carl and the team to develop and improve the e-learning further.

"Getting the Small Grant from SWLS was like getting a positive endorsement rubber stamp. It gave our work more weight and attracted the additional funding we needed." – Carl Holvey

They now have a robust, adaptable product they can roll-out to other NHS services, and have already developed a spin-off Doctor's e-learning programme. After presenting at conferences to very positive responses (e.g. Royal College of Nursing and Royal Pharmaceutical Conferences) they have recently sold the package to four other organisations. The e-learning resource has also been awarded an Innovation

Award by The Trust and was a Young Foundation Innovation Award finalist.

Medicine Monitoring App for Lithium Users

Lithium is often an effective method of treating mental health conditions such as bipolar disorder or resistant depression. However the delicate balance between beneficial and toxic levels in the bloodstream requires close monitoring. With further support from SWLS Carl Holvey is currently making use of another Small Grant to develop a medicine monitoring app for patients on lithium that could replace the unreliable paper records.

"Audit data showed that the majority of patients had smart phones so an idea came from the Chief Pharmacist and a Medical Director to have an app. If the monitoring data is on your phone you're far more likely to have it with you." – Carl Holvey

The aim of the app, currently in development, is to ensure medicine is reviewed, prescribed and supplied promptly and safely. Patients will be involved in self-management of their medicine as much as possible and record information on their mood and sleep patterns.

Having consulted with app developers, the team are now exploring its global potential and looking to include other conditions or medicines and widen the app to a more general and applicable physical health monitoring tool. But thanks to start-up funding from SWLS they have now developed a framework and are talking to potential new partners ahead of a launch later this year.

Small Grants, Lasting Impact

Small Grants is a programme that supports collaborative projects across academic, health and social care sectors. This is a unique programme in south west London, helping to promote innovation that could potentially be of great benefit for the population of the area and even beyond.

Could your idea be one of our next Small Grants beneficiaries? To find out more about SWLS Small Grants funding [click here](#)

To learn more about E-Learning [click here](#) and for more on the Lithium App [click here](#)

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