

# How can patient held information about medication improve patient safety? 5PSQ-094

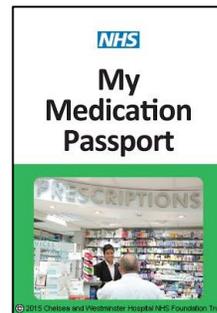
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## BACKGROUND AND AIMS

- Many patients who take medication use Patient-Held Information about Medicines (“PHIMed”) to improve transfer of medication-related information across care settings.
- However, it is not known how PHIMed is used to improve patient safety, nor what its key features are.
- Our aims were to identify how PHIMed is used to support patient safety, key features that support this, and barriers to its use.

## METHODS

- Mixed methods design;
- 2 focus groups with patients and carers;
- 16 semi-structured interviews with healthcare professionals;
- 60 semi-structured interviews with PHIMed users;
- A quantitative features analysis of PHIMed solutions available in the UK (digital and paper) and usability testing of 4 tools;
- Inductive and deductive thematic analysis.



## RESULTS

### Examples of enhancement of safety

#### **Transferring information between settings**

*‘Moving between institutions and hospitals ... so that the other people, each organisation has a clear idea of what meds you’re on makes it really important to have all this information on yourself or the people you care for, that’s absolutely vital.’*



#### **Identifying interactions**

*‘Obviously if you’re taking one lot of drugs and then somebody wants to give you something else they need to know to see if there was a clash.’*

#### **Barriers**

#### **Lack of knowledge about fragmented systems**

*‘I’ve always assumed the hospitals would know [what medicines I was taking]’*



#### **Accessibility in an emergency**

*‘The only thing is if you’re knocked out unconscious, would anybody ever find it?’*

- There was no ‘one size fits all’ solution. Different tools were suited to different purposes and preferences.
- None of the tools analysed fitted all the core requirements of users.
- Few tools included a field for indication and few patients included this.
- However, healthcare professionals reported that this was important information for enhancing safety.

## DISCUSSION

- PHIMed can contribute to the reduction of medication-related risk..
- Healthcare professionals should raise awareness among patients and carers of the potential benefits of carrying and using PHIMed, encourage its use during consultations, and be able to signpost to some of the tools available.

