

Four years of a regional Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre – What has been achieved?



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Background and Importance

A Regional Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC) was set up in 2015 by the Department of Health (DoH) in Northern Ireland as a key enabler for the Government policy document namely the Medicines Optimisation Quality Framework.

Aims and Objectives

There is a wide recognition that there are significant issues with regard to medicines, such as the fact that 30-50% of medicines are not taken as required. Thus the DoH decided to set up MOIC as a vehicle to focus activities in order to address these issues and optimise medicines use.

How was it done?

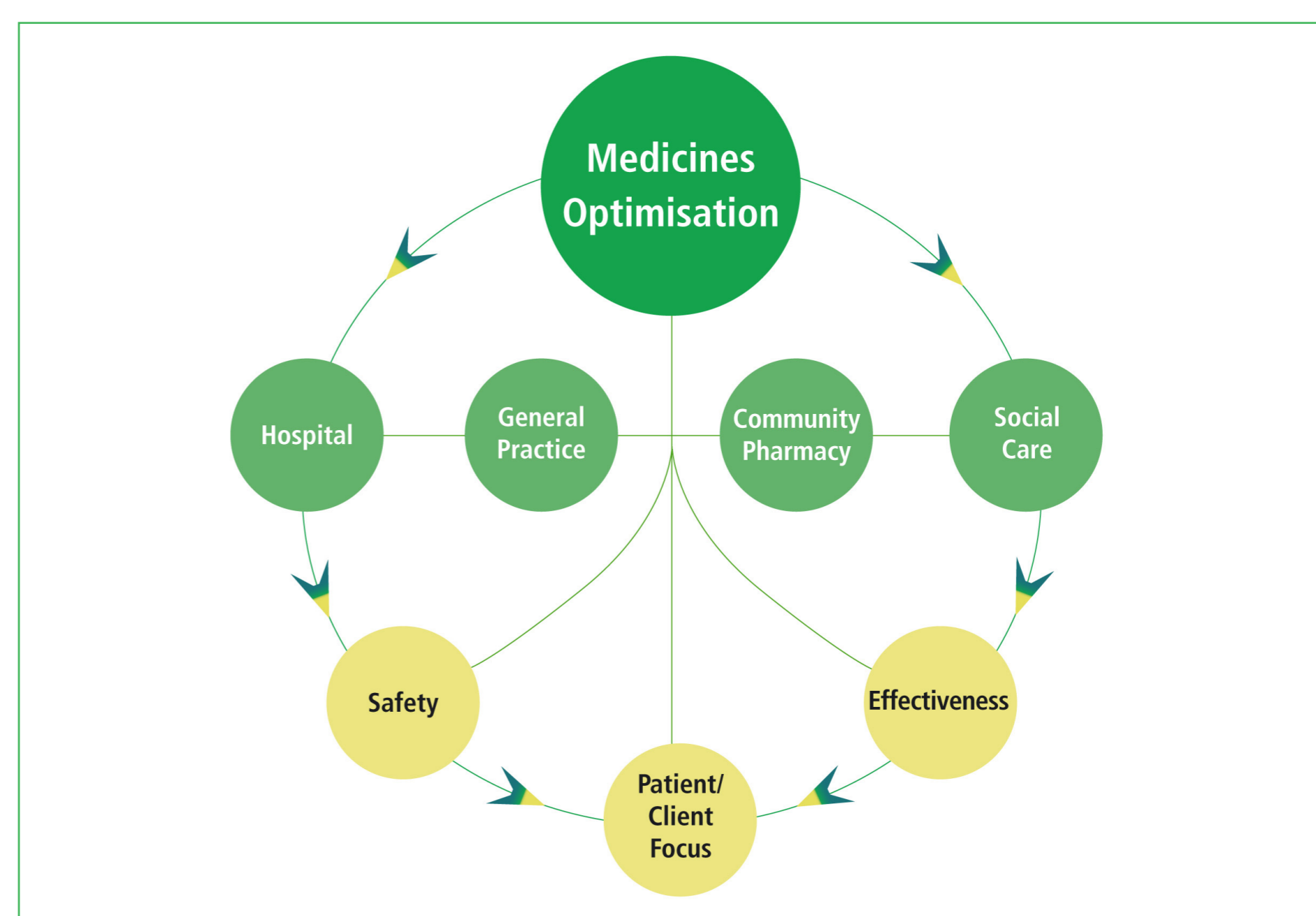
The DoH requested the Northern Health and Social Care Trust to locate the centre within the Trust based on the fact that there had been a long standing academic practice centre with the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast. Barriers that had to be addressed were highlighting the regional nature of the centre, to get engagement with all sectors of the service and building relationships with other key organisations, including the private sector. Initial core funding was provided by the DoH.

Results

MOIC has successfully evaluated improved systems with regard to hospital pharmacy:

- doctor-light discharge (90 minutes faster),
- post-discharge telephone follow-up (30 day readmission rate reduced by 9.9%);
- medicines optimisation in older people service in care home settings (reduced Emergency Department attendances and medicines costs).

In addition MOIC has been **successful in 3 EU funding bids** relating to medicines optimisation and has **published over 30 papers**. It has also been **accredited as a Statement Implementation Learning Collaborative Centre (SILCC)** site and also a **Centre of Excellence by the Spanish Hospital Pharmacists' Association**.



MOIC has also successfully worked with the private sector including pharmaceutical, device and technology companies. It has also been accredited as a **knowledge provider by Invest NI**.

Conclusion and Relevance

MOIC has delivered on its key initial objectives, related to medicines optimisation with good collaborative work across health, academia and commercial organisations, in the UK and Europe. It will have a key role in meeting the WHO Global Challenge of reducing medication-related harm by 50% by 2023 for the region and further optimising medicines systems.

This approach with government policy support could be relatively easily established in any other region.



<https://www.eahp.eu/gpis/Four-years-regional-medicines-optimisation-innovation-centre-2E2280293-what-has-been-achieved>