

LAMP in lockdown - the digital transformation

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Posted 30th June 2020

Our Research Co-ordinator Imran Mohammed reflects on how changes made in response to COVID-19 have had an impact on how the Lowering Antimicrobial Prescribing (LAMP) project is undertaken, as well as the ways our team has stayed connected whilst working virtually: www.westyorksrd.nhs.uk/our-team. If you're interested in LAMP (www.westyorksrd.nhs.uk/lamp) or have any questions about primary care research then please get in touch with a member of [our team](#).

The last three months have been very different in so many ways; the situation we find ourselves in has brought changes to the lifestyles and working arrangements of us all. As an R&D team, we've found this has especially affected the way we deliver the Lowering Antimicrobial Prescribing (LAMP) project.

Under normal circumstances audit searches are run by data quality and medicine optimisation teams across West Yorkshire and Harrogate and then anonymised aggregated data is shared with me; I subsequently organise, run through R software and mail merge this, resulting in the creation of hundreds of practice-centred feedback reports. Once these reports are drafted we receive invaluable feedback on these from relevant CCG colleagues and from [academic collaborators](#) at the University of Leeds.

When the reports are finalised we send these via post (5 paper copies) to each general practice in our area. These are also emailed to all CCG medicine optimisation teams. Reports are then also shared via a digital learning toolbox (a software platform), which Gemma updates. This allows practices to access the reports virtually via a unique practice specific link (or using a QR code); this gives access to additional resources and to all the previous reports for each individual practice, gathering them in one place.

Once the reports have been distributed CCG level data is accumulated and charts are constructed showing practice performance within Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Primary Care Networks (PCNs).

However, with no access to our office at Scorex House we have undertaken a 'digital transformation' (as Paul calls it), and have adapted our way of delivering the reports; we now distribute these via email and the online toolbox only.

Coincidentally this transition occurred around the time that our search criteria for the second year of the LAMP project changed. A consensus group comprised of academic GPs, medicines optimisation team members, data quality specialists and members of our R&D team agreed to amend the audit searches we use to ensure these are still relevant to our ICS part way through this project. This involved

constant communication between stakeholders in early April to amend bespoke SystemOne and EMIS searches for the clinical systems used across West Yorkshire and Harrogate. Once the new searches were created they were tested to ascertain whether the correct data was being collated and to ensure the robustness of the searches. Following this the searches were shared with our collaborators across the district so that they could extract the required data; finally the data (GDPR compliant) was shared with me. Subsequent extractions have been somewhat easier and by the end of July we will be ready for the 10th iteration of the reports.

It is only now, reflecting back on these changes, that I realise I do yearn for some semblance of routine in these unprecedented times. There are many perks to going digital, such as saving trees, and no longer being accused of hogging the printer in our office (something I've a bit of a reputation for amongst CCG colleagues...) - though admittedly I did used to find all the stapling and labelling of envelopes somewhat therapeutic, as strange as it sounds, whilst conversing with Damian and Gemma in our corner of the office.

What has helped immensely is the camaraderie within our team and the daily virtual catch up meetings we have, as well as being able to reach each other whenever necessary. The KiT (keeping in touch) calls I have with both Stella and Rebecca have been very helpful, and the fact that I am able to contact any member of the team for assistance if needed, without hesitation.

All members of the team are imperative in helping to create an environment conducive to growth, facilitating each other's development, progress and productivity. Upon reflection the transition into new working arrangements has been relatively seamless thanks to the nature of the team and the collaboration between us as individuals and with the organisations we represent. This has made the transition much easier in many ways. To quote the boss: "There is no I in team". We're looking forward to continuing to work on LAMP in this slightly different way.

If you are interested in LAMP then you can keep an eye on our website and Twitter page to hear about the project as it progresses.