

# Information Prescriptions

Getting ahead of the “information revolution”



# Liberating the NHS

“Information, combined with the right support, is the key to better care, better outcomes and reduced costs. Patients need and should have far more information...on all aspects of healthcare”

*Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*

“Some information is already available via information prescriptions...We will consider how to build on these, to ensure that people get the information they need at the right time in a way they can easily access.”

*No decision about me without me: extending choice in the NHS*

“Information is a health and care service in its own right – it must be freely available to all who need it...information prescriptions are an important tool for providing information”

*Liberating the NHS: an information revolution*



# An Information Revolution

An information revolution means providing patients with the information they want and need to make decisions about their health and care.

The vision is a system which lets patients know more about their long-term condition and more about the services available to them, for example:

- What is available
- Where to get it
- What their treatment options are when they get there
- The quality of the services they will receive there, and
- How to influence the way those services are shaped and delivered

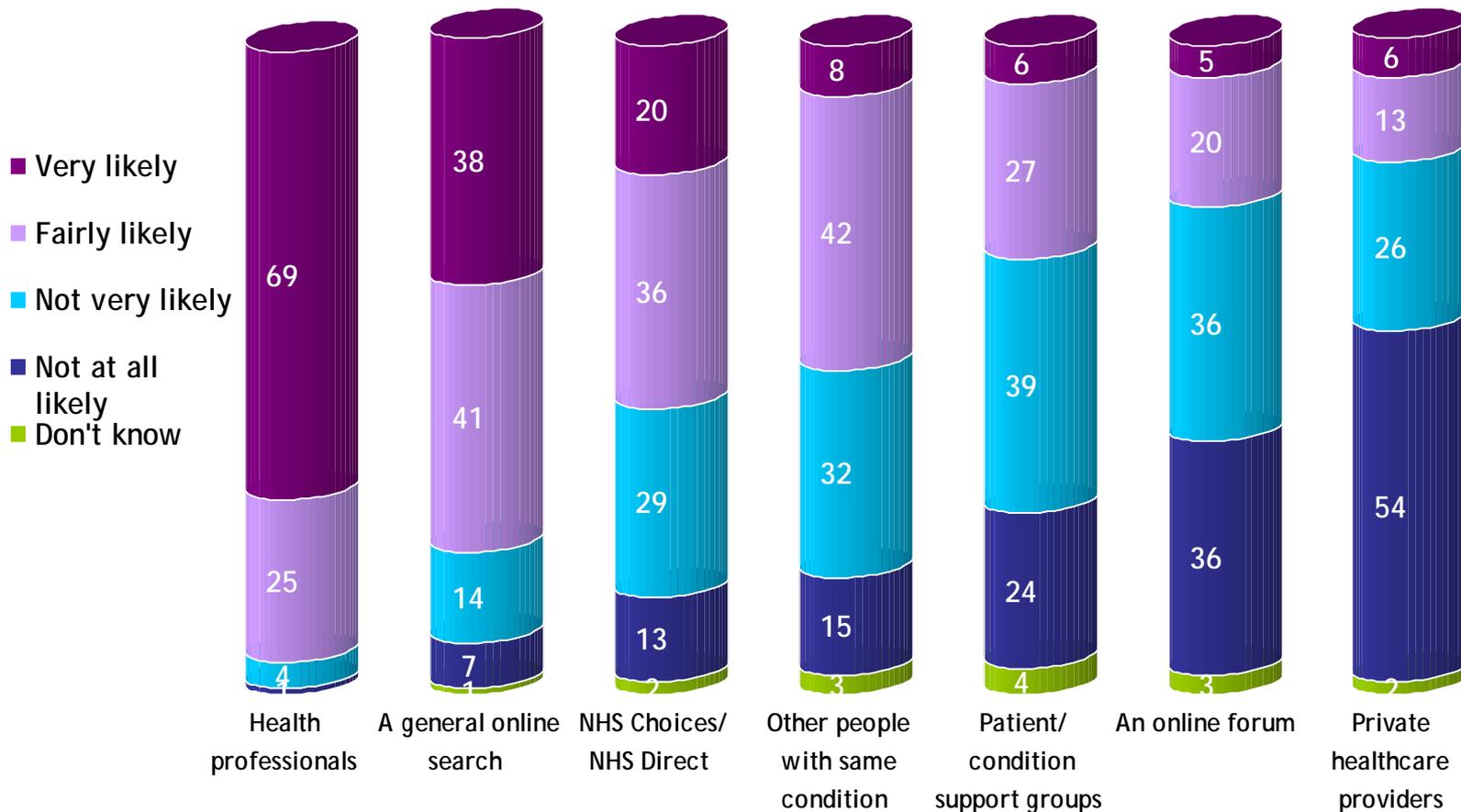


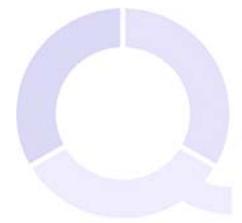
# What are information prescriptions?



- Information about a LTC – symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, medication, coping on a daily basis
- Sources of advice and support, such as local patient groups
- Information on local services, and how to access them
- Signposts to advice on benefits, employment, training and other welfare issues

# Where do people get an information prescription?





# Supporting self-care

## Informed patients

- Feel more in control and in charge of their conditions
- Access the right services at the right time
- Spend less time with care professionals (but get more from the services they use)
- Are better placed to make decisions about their care and treatment, and their lifestyle choices
- Are better placed to prepare for, cope with and recover from surgical interventions
- Are more likely to remain independent for longer



# Supporting QIPP

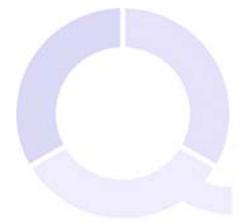
Giving patients good information can deliver cash-releasing savings:

- Reductions in repeat consultations and re-admittance
- Treatment savings from patients choosing less invasive but more effective treatment options
- Treatment savings from avoided emergency care
- Increasing compliance with medicines and treatment regimes
- Reduced levels of prescribing of specialised drugs
- Improved quality of care
- Reduced litigation costs
- Efficiency savings from more effective use of staff time



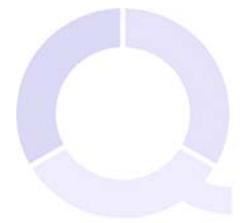
# Implementation models

- Self-dispensing via NHS Choices or similar
- “Light-touch” prescribing and self-dispensing
  - The care professional identifies the patient’s information needs, and signpost the patient towards specific information, which the patient then find for themselves outside of the consultation
- In-depth prescribing and linked dispensing
  - The care professional and patient identify the patient’s information needs and the information prescription is dispensed during the consultation.
- In-depth prescribing and remote dispensing
  - The care professional and patient identify the patient’s information needs. The information prescription is dispensed outside of the consultation, ie at home or at through a library, UK on-line centre or an NHS information centre



# Implementation challenges

- Building on existing networks and partnerships to ensure buy-in, particularly from clinicians
- Ensuring that staff are properly trained and supported to prescribe and dispense information prescriptions
- Building information prescription processes into existing protocols and practices, and into care planning in particular, so that clinicians routinely use information prescriptions in their consultations
- Providing information prescriptions using a variety of channels and locations



# Useful resources

## **Resource Pack** [www.informationprescriptions.info/resource](http://www.informationprescriptions.info/resource)

- Clear guidance on developing information prescriptions, together with a compendium of tools, templates and case studies showcasing learning from early adopters

## **E-learning** [www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk](http://www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk)

- An interactive e-learning course that helps care staff to understand and deliver information prescriptions, focusing on developing skills and competencies needed to assess and respond to a patient's information needs

## **Self-assessment tool** [www.nhsemployers.org/longtermconditions](http://www.nhsemployers.org/longtermconditions)

- This tool helps organisations identify the steps that need to be taken at an organisational level to introduce information prescriptions

# Information Prescriptions Service

[www.nhs.uk/ips](http://www.nhs.uk/ips)



**NHS choices**

Search NHS Choices

Search >

Log in or [Register](#) to access your favourites or prescribing history



Quickly create a package of health information to print, email or save

[About this service](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Partner list](#)

## Create an information prescription

Enter condition or treatment

[A-Z list of conditions and treatments](#)

Postcode (optional)

Save My Location

