

MTRAC gains NICE Accreditation



MTRAC, a regional prescribing advisory committee, based in Keele School of Pharmacy has, this month, gained NICE accreditation for its Commissioning Support Summaries. These two-page publications give a succinct summary of the available published evidence for a new drug treatment and other relevant supporting information. The summary also contains a set of guidance points discussed and agreed by the MTRAC committee (composed of GPs, other prescribers and health professionals from the West Midlands).

MTRAC or the Midlands Therapeutics Review and Advisory Committee was set up 22 years ago, to provide guidance to GPs and other prescribers on the use of new or unfamiliar drugs. Advice may be produced on drugs used solely in Primary care, or following prescription in hospital where a GP may need to continue treatment after the patient's discharge.

Following a rigorous analysis of MTRAC's processes and procedures including a face-to-face defence of the application at the NICE offices in London; accreditation was granted for a period of five years from March 2017. Gaining accreditation places a seal of approval on the rigour of this MTRAC process and the resulting guidance produced and enables the publications to carry the NICE accreditation kite mark.

Professor Stephen Chapman, Head of Medicines Optimisation in the school of Pharmacy, said that "this is a welcome recognition of the work of MTRAC, and the trust that it has gained amongst West Midlands prescribers over the past 20 years."

MTRAC is a part of the Keele Centre for Medicines Optimisation (KCMO) in the Pharmacy School. KCMO provides a wider service to 13 Subscriber Clinical Commissioning Groups, offering in depth prescribing analysis, evidence reviews and educational outreach materials. Full details of all products produced by the service can be found on the Centre's website at:

<http://ccg.centreformedicinesoptimisation.co.uk/>

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NICE has accredited the process used by the Midlands Therapeutics Review and Advisory Committee to produce Commissioning support summaries. Accreditation is valid for 5 years from 7 March 2017. More information on accreditation can be viewed at www.evidence.nhs.uk

For full details of our accreditation visit: www.nice.org.uk/accreditation