

Polypharmacy - a necessary evil?

Dr Rupert Payne, Consultant Senior Lecturer in Primary Health Care, University of Bristol

Biog: Rupert Payne trained at The University of Edinburgh in both Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and General Practice, and subsequently held an NIHR Clinical Lecturer position in Cambridge working with the Health Services Research group. He took up his current post of Consultant Senior Lecturer in Primary Health Care at the University of Bristol in February 2016. His research interests are around the safe and rational use of medications in primary care, with a specialist focus on polypharmacy. He co-authored the influential King's Fund report on the subject, was a member of the NICE Multimorbidity guideline development group, and has contributed to work in the area by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Abstract/summary: The use of multiple medications is widespread in modern clinical practice. But how much of a problem is it, what are the factors that drive it, and is there anything we can (or indeed should) do about it anyway? This seminar will consider the key challenges of polypharmacy from the perspectives of clinicians, academics and policymakers.