

Northern Ireland – Catalonia (STEPSelect)

Twinning overview

Originator: Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre, Northern Ireland	Adopter: Institut Catala de Salut, Catalonia	Innovative Practice: STEPSelect
Innovative Practice Description		
<p>The digital solution is the STEPSelect system. This is a web-based program, which allows the selection of medicines by formulary committees in hospitals and other health care institutions on a transparent and bias free basis.</p> <p>This twinning project seeks to scale-up STEPSelect, a comprehensive and well-researched framework methodology developed in NI designed to optimize the selection and procurement of medicines for the elderly and others. Developed since 2006 by the NHS in NI, STEPSelect is a web-based ICT application, which is now used for selection and procurement of almost 800 M€ of medicines in NI annually. STEPSelect is associated with improvements in the quality of prescribing, while reducing the cost of medicines by 20-25% for selected therapeutic groups. Since 2006, STEPSelect has been the focus of around 200 publications in peer reviewed journals on its main methods and outcomes. STEPSelect is one of the cornerstones of the quality policy for pharmaceuticals developed by the NI Ministry of Health.</p> <p>This initiative delivers a clinician driven procurement process that ensures that they have a comprehensive input into the process. The process is predicated on the basis of safety and quality driving health gain and economy. It is evidence-based and also takes account of risk assessment of products. It also enables the needs of specific patient groups to be taken into account especially older people and ensuring that recommendations in this population are based on evidence relating to that age group, i.e. patient centred.</p>		
Link to the EIP on AHA Repository of innovative practices:		
https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/repository/safe-therapeutic-economic-pharmaceutical-selection_en		
Innovation Scope:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated medicines management 		
Innovation Type:		
<p>The twinning raised a considerable amount of interest in implementing the STEPSelect system at a local level. At the present time, a pilot project is being considered at operational level in a healthcare setting. The degree of innovation of the twinning includes step 1 (knowledge exchange & training) as well as step 2 (adoption).</p>		
AHA Action Group:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A1. Prescription and adherence action at regional level 		
Twinning Objectives:		
<p>The main objective of the project is to introduce the STEPSelect platform developed in NI in Catalonia as a tool for the optimized selection and procurement of medicines for the elderly and other persons and to assess and validate that the adoption of this web-based program supports and strengthens local decision making capacity about medicines selection with economic and social benefits for the healthcare delivery system in particular for the elderly, while reducing inequalities in relation to access to relevant cost-effective medicines. Finally, the project will identify both potential facilitators and barriers to scaling-up in Catalonia.</p>		
Twinning end result:		
<p>The twinning resulted in implementation. A pilot project is planned to structure the medicines formulary used in primary care in Catalonia. It is too early to assess if the innovative practice will be adopted all over Catalonia.</p>		