

**Project title:** Development of an Injectable Buprenorphine Toolkit

**Project background:** Spectrum Community Health CIC are planning to introduce long-acting buprenorphine injection opioid substitution therapy (OST) across their secure and community estates. To mitigate against the risk of fragmented and poorly executed implementation of a different OST treatment modality, Spectrum Learn and Develop Ltd will work together with Camurus UK Ltd to develop comprehensive and detailed guidance for clinicians working in Spectrum's secure environments.

**Organisations involved:** Spectrum Community Health CIC, Spectrum Learn and Develop Ltd and Camurus Ltd. Both parties have contributed approximately equal resources to this project.

**Project objectives:**

- Make changes to service delivery models at two prison sites to include the administration of injectable buprenorphine
- Provide advice and guidance about the cohort of patients in the secure environment that are most likely to benefit from this formulation
- Capture safety outcomes of Buprenorphine treatment in the prison setting
- Conduct a cost benefit analysis and overall value of delivery including consideration of societal and economic returns
- Describe procedures for transition between OST treatments
- Understand and describe the implications on service user experience and community perceptions across the service users' recovery/care pathway
- Optimise continuity of care between community, custodial and hospital settings
- Produce a step-by-step operational guide to support implementation of the pathway in other Spectrum CIC secure and community estates

**Benefits to Patients:**

- Implementation of a clinically effective care pathway for the introduction of injectable buprenorphine for service users in the prison environment
- Injectable buprenorphine offers potential benefits over daily oral OST to service users whilst in the secure environment as well as upon release:
  - Significantly fewer supervised therapy administrations
  - Reduces the risk of diversion of medication
  - Removes the need to obtain OST prescription immediately upon release to avoid withdrawal
- Improved continuity of care between the criminal justice and community treatment settings

**Benefits to Spectrum Learn and Develop Ltd:**

- Healthcare employees who will be involved in the administration and delivery of injectable buprenorphine will receive education and training
- Expert health economic modelling, cost analyses and statistical analyses will be provided where required
- Members of the Spectrum Learn and Develop team will be supported by advisors from Camurus Ltd on relevant updates of the RCGP SMAH Certificate in the Management of Drug Misuse Part 1 and Part 2

**Benefits to Camurus:**

- Increased patient access to opioid dependence treatment, including Camurus' product, according to national guidelines
- Better understanding of customers' and service users' needs in the secure environment
- Faster adoption of good practice guidance for treatment of opioid dependence in secure environments which may be relevant to Camurus Ltd business
- Enhanced reputation as a valued healthcare provider in opioid dependence treatment

**Project timelines:** the project will start in March 2020 with an expected duration of 12 months.